

Bavarian News

Vol 3. Nr. 19

U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, and Schweinfurt

October 3, 2007



VOLLEYBALL JAMBOREE
LADY FALCONS AND
COMMUNITY MEMBERS
ENJOY DAY OF VOLLEYBALL
ACTION

■ **PAGES 28**

WELCOME HOME!
ANSBACH'S COMPANY C,
5-158TH AVIATION
RETURNS FROM IRAQ

■ **PAGES 19**

HOME SAFELY!
38TH PSB TROOPS
RETURN TO BAMBERG
AFTER 15-MONTH OIF
DEPLOYMENT

■ **PAGE 22**

REINTEGRATION
ACS CLASSES HELP
SCHWEINFURT FAMILIES
COPE WITH BLENDING
AFTER REDEPLOYMENT

■ **PAGE 25**

DEPLOYMENT SAVINGS
HOHENFELS' CYS
ENHANCING SERVICES,
OFFERING DISCOUNTS,
SPECIAL INCENTIVES TO
FAMILIES OF DEPLOYED
SERVICE MEMBERS

■ **PAGE 8**

INDEX

■ **Travel Page:**
Bruges--the city known
for its chocolate & lace
PAGE 17

■ **Food & Culture:**
Onion Tart, Most wine a
perfect pairing for the fall
PAGE 21

■ **Local Youth:**
Grafenwoehr Elementary
students observe
Constitution Day.
PAGE 3

Concessions, furniture store opening at Vilseck

Braids & More hair shop, bakery among new concessions

by **BILYANA ATOVA**
Bavarian News

Wondering what will become of the old Vilseck PX? What new businesses will replace the old concessions at Vilseck? What are AAFES' new store hours?

These are among several questions that were answered at the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Evolution of AAFES Support to the Vilseck Community briefing held at the Vilseck Chapel Sept. 24.

Garrison and AAFES officials told attendees, mostly concerned Vilseck residents, that they would not be left high

and dry, now that the Grafenwoehr PX has opened and the Vilseck PX has closed.

Boyle confirmed the construction of a new, larger furniture store in the place of the old PX. The tent located in the old PX parking lot will house the furniture merchandise (and a scaled-back book store) until the new furniture store is re-opened inside the old PX. The old furniture store has relocated to the tent in the parking lot because its previous location—Bldg. 215—needed to be freed up to accommodate the relocation of the

U.S. Army Medical Department Activity from Wuerzburg to Vilseck.

The beauty shop, a new rug and antique store, and two commodity concessions should be complete by December, said Boyle.

By the end of March, the photo studio, Starcade video arcade, and new Braids & More (hair braiding) shop should be completed.

The old PX will also house a barbershop, TKS store, Pedals & Blooms flower shop, America Sports

See **FEEDBACK** Page 6

Exercise tests garrison, host nation crisis response

by **KATIE COWART**
Assistant editor

The early Saturday morning silence over U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr was shattered when what sounded like a bomb blast resonated off of the buildings around post. Those looking out their windows saw a tower of dark smoke near the center of post billowing into the sky.

These were the planned, controlled actions of garrison officials and host nation emergency responders who say they will be prepared if a real-life emergency ever takes place.

The annual mass casualty exercise, dubbed Charging Boar, was held Sept. 22 on the installation and involved hundreds of local nation emergency personnel responding to a simulated terrorist attack in which an unidentified plane crashed into the Tower Theater.

Maj. John Gillespie, in charge of the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security plans and operations, explained why most of the rescue personnel on the scene were from the surrounding German communities.

"USAG Grafenwoehr cannot effectively react to mass casualty incidents without the support of the host nation," Gillespie said, noting that in case of a real incident, the host nation would take the lead. "Their response with fire, police, medical, and consequence management is outstanding."

Gillespie also made it very clear that while last month's event was crucial in maintaining and improving anti-terrorism tactics, the garrison has a pro-active stance 365 days a year.

"USAG Grafenwoehr officials continually monitor the security environment and assign the appropriate measures," said Gillespie.

The scene at this year's exercise was an airplane crash into the Tower Theater. Both the plane, simulated by

See **CHARGING BOAR** Page 12



Photo by Paula Guzman

RUSH HOUR: After a brief grand opening ceremony Sept. 26, a sea of shoppers from throughout the local and other U.S. Army Europe communities flood into the new post exchange, the largest of its kind in Europe. The new commissary also opened its doors Sept. 26. **SEE PAGE 4 FOR THE FULL STORY.**

Get in the 'know' with AFTB classes

Story and photo by **KATIE COWART**
Assistant editor

Whether you're brand new to the military or have been around the Army your whole life, Army Family Team Building can offer valuable information and resources. AFTB classes are open to anyone: Soldiers, Family members, and civilian employees.

Nicole Heller, the AFTB volunteer program manager, explained that program originated as a result of Operation Desert Storm.

"Senior spouses from that deployment came together and decided that Army Families needed something to help better prepare them for deployments and Army life in general as self-reliant,

self-resilient Families," Heller said. "Those spouses went to Gen. Tommy Franks, the commander of the (Training and Doctrine Command) at the time, to see how they could do this. The AFTB program was officially implemented on Dec. 16, 1994."

Since then, the program has spread throughout the Army, with classes available at posts around the world. All three levels of AFTB are offered at Vilseck, which also serves the Grafenwoehr community as well.

Michelle Riegel, the spouse of a 4th Squadron, 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment Soldier, said that

See **AFTB** Page 4



Barbara Wallace instructs AFTB Level I Sept. 5-6 at Vilseck.

2SCR Soldier dies Sept. 18 during combat operations

■ *Walker 'able to find positive' in all situations*

by **BILYANA ATOVA**
Bavarian News

Friends and community members gathered to bid farewell to Spc. Aaron James Walker in a memorial service at the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Vilseck Chapel Sept. 24.

Walker, 23, of Harker Heights, Texas, was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry

Regiment and deployed to Iraq Aug. 11 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He died Sept. 18 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire during combat operations.

At the memorial service the 3/2 rear detachment commander Capt. David Dykema called Walker a true American who left a lasting impression on everyone he met.

"Nevermind the circumstances. He was able to find the positive in every situation," Dykema said. "No matter the difficulty, he would never quit."

Walker joined the Army because he wanted to serve

his country and make a difference, said Maj. Tom Rickard, the regimental rear detachment commander.

"He made a difference, every day and every night. Each step we take in these patrols, we make a difference," said Rickard during the solemn service. "He made a difference in his community, in the regiment, and in the world."

Walker is survived by his wife, Amber; parents, Ann and Darryl Walker; brother, Alex; and sister, Andee.



Walker

Q&A

What are your *expectations* as Soldiers come *home*?



Pfc. Dale Murphy
"I expect the community to show a lot of support and understand how the Soldiers will be different."

Bernadette Graham

"As a community and as a Family, we're going to be real busy - and happy. Extremely happy - with a smile, 24-7."



Lady Walker
"I know the crime rate is going to go up. Violence and DUI's are going to go up."

Spc. Shawn Ashe

"I hope they have something for (the Soldiers) thanking them. Just because the war is becoming unpopular doesn't mean we shouldn't take care of the guys coming back."



Lorrie Martin
"I expect a lot of thanks to the Soldiers. Everyone should be thanking them for what they've done. A nice welcome home - something - for them."

Xandria Henry

"I expect to spend more Family and quality time - having a sense of security now that my spouse is home."



Claudia Dealmeida
"They come back with a lot of stress and tension. I hope all spouses can be more patient, loving, supporting, and helping... giving them time to be home again."



Melanie Hubler
"I'm just happy that he's coming back. I expect to go back to normal Family life."

Command Message

Remember: Driving here is still a privilege, not a right

Looks like the mythical college football final four will be USC, LSU, Oklahoma, and Florida. Of course now that I have said that one or more are bound to lose. Isn't college football great? And off to the column.

Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month will be celebrated from now through Oct. 15 this year. The theme, Hispanic Americans: Making a Positive Impact on American Society, captures it all.

Hispanic Americans have shown their devotion to our country in a variety of ways including through their military service. Citizens of Hispanic descent have fought in every war since our country was founded and continue to excel in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom today.

The garrison will execute numerous events throughout the month culminating with a ceremony and celebration scheduled for Oct. 20 in the Grafenwoehr Field House. Bands, dancing, food tasting, and other events will occur.

Please listen to AFN 1107 AM or contact the garrison equal opportunity advisor, Sgt. 1st Class Jacqueline Galloway, via e-mail or at CIV 0171-748-6265 for more information.

Points on Licenses

A rather disturbing trend has begun to emerge concerning USAREUR driver's licenses.

Recently, multiple people have been stopped driving and we have found out that

they do not have a license. And in most cases, the owner of the car was either present in the vehicle or knowingly allowed an unlicensed driver to operate the car.

While I understand that obtaining a USAREUR driver's license is not easy, it is a requirement for permanent party personnel to operate civilian vehicles in Germany.

The penalty for a registered driver allowing someone to drive his vehicle without a license is six points. Once a driver accumulates twelve points, his license is suspended.

Once again, the community needs to follow established regulations or risk losing this valuable driving privilege.

Housing Allowance

Based on recent trends, I need to remind the community that the Army provides one housing allowance per Family unit. This to me is self evident. One Family, one housing allowance but apparently not everyone understands this concept.

What we have recently discovered usually happens (but not always) when a Family receives Inter-Theater Transfer Orders in Germany. Invariably, children and schooling are involved so they ask to leave their Family in the losing garrison in housing and travel unaccompanied to the gaining garrison.

Upon arrival at the gaining installation, the Soldier demands housing - in short a second housing allowance. Some get this housing, but it is only on a space available basis and is subject to immediate revocation (Soldier must depart the housing if it is needed by others).

“The penalty for a registered driver allowing someone to drive his vehicle without a license is six points.”

The Soldier is then required to find housing off post and pay for the housing.

The situation provided above is only one example and there are a host of others. The Garrison reviews every exception to policy concerning housing and tries to honor the needs of our customers. But bottom line, a Family entity is only authorized one housing allowance.

Child Care

I recently visited the hourly child care room at the Grafenwoehr CDC. There seems to be

some confusion so I wanted to use this column to better explain the process.

This room has a capacity of 10 per hour. To date, we have had space. If you were told there was no space, then we misinformed you.

In reality, we may not have been able to meet the exact hour you wanted to attend, but there has always been space to give you hourly child care.

The challenge is customers signing up for hourly child care and not showing up. The hour that I went, 10 children were signed up but only two actually were provided care.

Please use the service, but if you don't need it, don't take away the space from other Families and help me make this the best place to live and serve in Europe.

*Col. Brian T. Boyle
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

Military moving easier because it's normal



JACKIE ECKHART
On the Homefront

My pal Suze was just telling me that her European husband wants her to sell her house. Move overseas. Learn to speak French. Put their kids into local schools. Local, French-speaking schools.

I am awed.

"But you military people do it all the time," Suze chided. "You moved overseas. Kath moved overseas. Twice."

"Yeah, but not for forever. Not for house buying. Not for PTA-ing in a foreign language."

"What difference does that make?" Suze said. "It's hard on you. It's hard on the kids. What's the difference between a normal Family doing a move and a military Family doing a move?"

"It's night and day, Babe," I said. "Night. And. Day. We've got at least three things going for us that you civilians don't usually have - even if you are moving within the state."

"Like what?"

"First, our moves are temporary. You can move to Korea or Guam or Equatorial Africa. You can learn to live without pasta or vanilla

or whatever else they're out of over there. Big whoop. A woman can live as long as she knows she'll be back in Wal-Mart Land in 22 months."

"OK, I can see that."

"Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, the move isn't really under our control. If things go wrong, I can't blame Brad because the move wasn't his idea. Service people only move because they have to move, not because they get their jollies huffing all those little brown rolls of mover's tape. Brad can't help where the Navy sends him."

This shocks Susan.

"Don't you have a say in it? Don't you get to say you don't want to move to a particular place?"

"Sure, we have a say. Kind of. Officially, they have a wish list you can fill out with jobs you'd like to have and places you'd like to go."

"And don't they have to follow that?"
"Heavens, no! That's why we call Detailers and Monitors 'Those Jolly Boys Who Send Us Where We Do Not Want To Go,'" I said.

(Love you guys. Kisses, fellas. Box of chocolates in the mail.)

"So how does that help you?"

"Since it's the Detailers' idea, it's all their fault. It's Us against Them. And when it comes to a move being hard or complicated or uncomfortable, it's always nicer to have someone outside the family to blame."

"So what's the third thing?" Susan asked.

"Third thing we've got going for us is that we live in the military community. Wherever

we go, there are certain things that remain, essentially, the same.

"The same people check your ID at the commissary. The gate guards are the same kind of guys. Even the commissary ground beef is cut up in the same way whether you live in Norfolk or San Diego or Sasebo, Japan. That hamburger still won't make good patties. For that you have to go on the outside and get some nice ground chuck..."

"Forget the burgers," Susan interrupts. "I get that. But you aren't in the military, Jacey. Your husband is in the military, but you..."

I stopped her. "You're wrong. I'm in the military, too."

She gave me a look just before she chased her toddler down. A look that said, *you poor pathetic creature clinging to his bootstraps*.

I could kind of see her point. Unless you're in it, it's hard to understand how much a part of the military community we Family members really are.

I have nothing to do with what my spouse does in his office or on his ship. I don't hold any rank. I can never even find my way to the mess decks without an armed posse leading me gently by the hand.

But I am an accepted part of that world. I do what they do. I am what they are. It is so much easier (not easy, just easier) to move and resettle and pick it all up again because all my dearest friends are doing the exact same thing.

Even though a lot of it isn't pleasant, to us it is normal. Moving is normal. And on a lot of days just knowing it's normal is pretty good.

A 19-year military spouse, Jacey Eckhart is a nationally syndicated columnist with CinCHouse.com and the host of "The Jacey Eckhart Show for Military Families" (www.cinchouse.com/jacey).

Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, and Schweinfurt

Producer: **MILCOM Advertising Agency**
Roswitha Lehner

Zeilaeckerstr. 35 · 92637 Weiden · Telefax 0961-67050-32

Internet: **www.milcom.de**

Bavarian News is an unofficial biweekly publication authorized by AR 360-1. Editorial views are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. The paper is an offset publication prepared and edited by the U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr Public Affairs Office. Bavarian News is printed by Werbeagentur und Verlag Roswitha Lehner and distributed every other Wednesday. Circulation is 11,300 copies. Submissions are welcome. Send letters to the editor and commentaries to PAO, Unit 28130, Attn: Bavarian News, APO AE 09114, or e-mail them to usagnews@graf.eur.army.mil. Telephone the Bavarian News at 475-7113 or fax to 475-7935 with story ideas and events.

USAG G Commander
Col. Brian Boyle

USAG G Acting Public Affairs Officer
Nick D'Amario (475-6417)

Bavarian News Editor
Adriane Foss (475-7113)

Assistant Editor
Katie Cowart (475-8103)

Grafenwoehr Correspondent
Bilyana Atova (475-1600)

Hohenfels Correspondent
Garry Barrows (466-4860)

Bamberg Correspondents
(469-2000)
Amy Bugala
Nicole Karsch-Meibom
Krista Browning

Schweinfurt Correspondents
(354-1600)
Miranda McLeon
Kimberly Gearhart
Sandra Wilson

Ansbach Correspondents
(467-1600)
Jim Hughes, CI Chief
Ronald Toland

‘Day for Kids’ is a day of fun

Vilseck youth enjoy outdoor adventures, Teen Night Sept. 15

by SHANNON HILL
Bavarian News

What do sumo wrestling, rock climbing, dunking, and dancing have in common?

At Vilseck, they were just a few of the activities at the Day for Kids sponsored by the installation’s teen center Sept. 15.

The event was held for parents and children of all ages, including visiting youth from teen centers at U.S. Army garrisons Hohenfels and Ansbach.

Held in celebration of the annual Boys and Girls Club Day for Kids, the event was broken down into three parts: afternoon activities from 2 – 6 p.m., a Teen Night, and a lock-in to

round out the night.

“The day part was the best,” said Charles “CJ” Cratch, a teen center employee, originally from North Carolina. “Families and kids of all ages were participating in stuff like face painting and decorations...and everyone had a lot of fun.”

Teen Night took place from 8 – 11 p.m. and featured two deejays who played non-explicit music. Teen Night also included a 10-minute martial arts demonstration in which a volunteer demonstrated sword techniques to the kids, an open mike competition, and a dance competition with break and krump dancing.

Military police arrived at 11 p.m. to ensure the kids arrived home safely when Teen Night ended.

“I had a good time...I made a couple of new friends from different teen center places,” said freshman Annie Garrison of New York.

Finally, the night was rounded out by a lock-in for the kids who came from Ansbach and the teen center volunteers.

“We had a pool tournament and an Xbox tournament. Everyone stayed up all night, and the two kids who didn’t make it...well, they got pranked,” said lead child and youth program assistant Anthony Hickmon with a laugh. Hickmon was also the head coordinator of the Day for Kids.

“From A – Z, the whole community supported this event,” said Hickmon about the people who gave their time and energy to make the event happen.

He said the Masons provided drinks; more than 75 parents assisted; high school students volunteered, and all the individual components of CYS including SAS, CDC, and SKIES came together.

“This (Day for Kids) really shows the community and families what we can do for them, and shows as much what they can do for us,” said Cratch.

The Teen Center is open to ideas from the community, has an open-door policy, and encourages parent participation. They also have Internet available to allow teens to stay in touch with deployed parents.

The next teen center event is their Nov. 3 haunted house. To volunteer for more information about the teen center, call DSN 476-3144.

Spotlight on Education



Name: Pam Connors

What grade /subject and where do you teach? Geometry, Algebra II, and Geometry Lab at Vilseck High School

Hometown: Peru, N.Y.

How long have you been a teacher? 15 years

What do you like best about teaching? I like that every school year is a fresh start with all new students.

What advice can you give students to help them succeed in school? Show up and participate - class, sports, government, or clubs. If you are involved, school is more rewarding and fun.



(At left) Jasmine Borregos, 7, receives a face painting by Antoinette Rodman, a certified youth professional, during the Day For Kids at the Vilseck Teen Center, Sept. 9.



(At right) James Holliman ensures the safety gear on his son John-Thomas Holliman, 10, is secure before John-Thomas ventures up the climbing wall.

Photos by Paula Guzman

Additional FY08 transformation actions announced

U.S. Army Europe press release

The U.S. Army, Europe will, in addition to FY 2008 transformation actions announced in April 2007, convert, inactivate and relocate numerous units stationed in Germany to support Army transformation and the Department of Defense’s overall Global Defense Posture and to increase strategic responsiveness in the face of threats posed by the Global War on Terrorism.

USAREUR continues to support GWOT while simultaneously transforming units and consolidating into our enduring Main Operating Bases.

As a result of these unit actions there will be a reduction of approximately 795 Soldiers, 1,215 family members, 18 U.S. civilians and five local national civilians in Germany.

Numbers reflect the total personnel associated with the units and organizations in this announcement.

The impact on both military and civilian personnel will vary, based on the disposition of their units and the status of individual Soldiers

and employees.

Also, the number of Soldiers reflects authorized positions, while the number of civilians is actual strengths.

Military Intelligence

Military Intelligence actions continue to set the conditions for conversion to an enduring Military Intelligence Brigade.

■ Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d MI Battalion, relocates from Darmstadt to Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

■ A Co, 2d MI BN, relocates from Darmstadt to Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

■ B Co, C Co, and D Co, 2d MI BN, relocate from Darmstadt to Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

■ European Security Operations Center relocates from Darmstadt to Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

■ Cryptological Support Group relocates from Darmstadt to Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

■ Field Support Center relocates from Darmstadt to Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

■ Hanau Counter Intelligence detachment

relocates from Hanau to Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

Personnel Services

USAREUR will activate a Human Resource Sustainment Center in Kaiserslautern.

Combat Units

The 1-94 Field Artillery Battalion, Idar-Oberstein, will return to the Continental United States.

Combat Support Units

USAREUR will activate the 15th Engineer Bn at Grafenwoehr. The battalion consists of:

■ 15th EN Bn Headquarters and Headquarters Co.

■ 534th Survey and Design Detachment.

■ 902D Vertical Construction Co.

■ 500th Horizontal Construction Co.

Combat Service Support Units

■ The following units inactivate:

■ 29th Area Support Group, Kaiserslautern.

■ The 123rd Main Support Bn (MSB), Dexheim.

The following unit returns to CONUS:

■ The 612th Movement Control Team, Kaiserslautern.

Army Reserve

The 7th Army Reserve Command relocates from Schwetzingen to Kaiserslautern.

Other Unit actions

The following Defense Logistics Agency European activities will relocate from Wiesbaden to Kaiserslautern:

■ Defense Logistics Agency Europe Regional Command, DLA Enterprise Support, and DLA Information Operations Europe.

■ Defense Energy Support Center Europe.

■ Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service Forward Support Team Europe.

■ DLA Criminal Investigations Activity.

■ Defense Automation and Production Support Europe.

Additionally, the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia-Europe relocates from Mainz-Kastel to Kaiserslautern.

Constitution Day observance held at Grafenwoehr Elementary

■ Students write about ‘freedoms’

Special to the Bavarian News

Students at Grafenwoehr Elementary School recently had fun learning about the constitution. The upper grade students had fun learning the Preamble to the constitution as a song. They sang the song as an entire school as part of their morning routine.

Some classes were so ingenious that they even did “constitution math” and quilts to honor Constitution Day. The quilts were symbolic of our

freedom and that we are free to learn math in a free society.

The students learned about why we have laws to govern our country and what was done in the past to protect these rights and laws. The students also learned why we need laws to govern our country.

Mr. Simm’s fifth graders wrote essays about what it means to be an American. The students are happy and more aware of our freedoms as Americans.

■ Essays: What It Means to Me To Be An American

By Samantha Bidinger

To me being an American is great. I am happy that I can do whatever I want and live my life the way I want.

I like that I am free and can wear the clothes I want to. I can have whomever I want as my friends and go wherever I want with them.

I like that I have the freedom to learn, unlike in some countries – girls can’t go to school.

One of my favorite parts about being born into an American family is that I can live wherever in the world I want. I can learn new customs and cultures. In one sentence I can say that to me being American is having a wonderful, great amount of freedom.

By Michaela Lechwar

What it means to be an American to me is having so much freedom, and I am glad there is no slavery. I am just glad to be free and do what I want to do.

I am also glad that we have had so many great leaders in the past like Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., and many more.

It is also just great to be an American because we have so many people from around the world in our country. It is just nice to have different people.

I am also glad to be an American because it means everything to me, and I am just glad to be an American. I am glad they wrote the Constitution on that day in 1787.

The Bavarian News is looking for part-time contract journalists for the Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, and Hohenfels installations. We will also hire a full-time assistant editor with writing and pagination experience. Applicants should enjoy working with others and be willing to cover events occasionally on weekends and evenings, including high school sporting events. Sports knowledge a plus!

Term 2 Central Texas College courses set

Special to the Bavarian News

Central Texas College Vilseck/Grafenwoehr is offering the following vocational-technical courses in the upcoming Term 2:

AUMT 1471 – Automotive Fuel Systems (four credit hours);

CDEC 1335–Early Childhood Development: 3-5 Years (three credit hours); and

CJSA 1313 – Court Systems & Practices (three credit hours).

Each of the three classes are classroom-based and lead to an Associate in Applied Science

degree. All classes this term will be held in Vilseck at the Army Education Center or the CTC Auto Shop for the AUMT class.

Term 2 registration is Oct. 1-12, with late registrations allowed up to the day the class starts. The term dates are Oct. 22 – Dec. 15.

Contact CTC field representative Chuck Sligh at the Vilseck or Grafenwoehr Education Center for more information on these and other available programs at DSN 476-2362 / CIV 09662-83-2362 (Mon.-Wed., Fri.) or DSN 475-7079 / CIV / CIV 09641-83-7079 (Thurs.), or by e-mail at vilseck@europe.ctcd.edu.

AFTB classes offer insight into Army

Continued From Page 1

she learned of the course through the “Welcome to Bavaria” class held for newcomers and even though she’s been around the military for 13 years, decided to take the Level I training again.

“I took AFTB (Level I) about 10 years ago at Ft. Lewis, Wash., but with the many changes that were implemented by the military in the past few years, and being on a new post, let alone in a new country, I decided to take the instruction again,” Riegel said.

She and Heller both said that AFTB is a resource that the Army provides as an informational tool, and

that spouses need to take advantage of it.

“There was so much I learned, but I think for the most part, what I took away with me is that no matter what I will face or am facing, there is a resource somewhere in the Army that can help me,” said Riegel, who plans on taking all three levels of AFTB, the instructor’s course, and the master trainer course to become an AFTB instructor.

Heller, who has been around the Army for 11 years and involved with AFTB since 2004, described the AFTB Level I as “Army 101.”

“It gives a run down of the basics of military life in the Army, explains entitlements and benefits, how the

chain of command works, what the Family readiness groups are for, and what resources we have available to them in the community,” she said.

She said Level II is geared toward personal and professional development while Level III focuses leadership.

The classes are generally two-day events, incorporating group discussion, exercises, and presentations.

“It’s a great way to meet all kinds of people within your community,” said Heller, “and it makes the different challenges of Army life less daunting and much less overwhelming for a new spouse if we can arm them with information and a place to go for help

in understanding the unique atmosphere we are all living in.”

Heller said she first got involved with AFTB while stationed in Portland, Ore., with her husband on recruiting duty.

“When I took Level I while we were on recruiting duty, it became clear to me that this was something that would be an asset to the recruiting efforts—to offer these classes to the new potential recruits and their Families before enlisting, giving them a better grasp on what to expect and what to look forward to,” she said. “I thought to myself that this really would’ve helped me a lot had I known about this program when I first married my husband.”

She said that AFTB is a primarily all-volunteer program, and as such offers great volunteer opportunities when arriving at a new installation.

She also said that being involved in an AFTB program provides an easy way to step into the community, meet new people, and get involved.

The next Level I AFTB classes will be offered Oct. 10-11, and then again Nov. 7-8. Level II will be offered Oct. 30-Nov. 1, and again Dec. 11-13.

Level II will be offered Nov. 27-29. All classes are on Vilseck in the AFTB classroom, Bldg. 221, Room 207.

For more information or to register for a class, call ACS at DSN 476-2650 or CIV 09662-83-2650.

New PX, commissary opening makes Grafenwoehr the new shopping mecca

by BILYANA ATOVA
Bavarian News

The U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr’s highly anticipated shopping center has finally opened.

And if the first-day profits and the sea of people who descended on the PX and commissary are any indication of the center’s future, it should be bright indeed.

The Sept. 26 grand opening attracted local shoppers and busloads of military families from garrisons as far away as Bamberg.

After a ribbon cutting and brief remarks by USAG Grafenwoehr Commander Brian Boyle, an impatient crowd cascaded into the PX, pushing empty shopping carts. The center remained busy all day, reminiscent of a day after Thanksgiving blowout sale at an American mall. Customers waited up to an hour and a half in the checkout lines.

“I cannot believe the size of it,” said shopper Susanne Johnson. “It is so huge I have problems scanning what is in here.”

The new PX is the largest in Europe—40 percent larger than the Wuerzburg store, which was formerly the largest in Europe—and boasts 65,000-square-feet of sales floor.

“Such a PX was badly needed and we really appreciate it, especially with the euro-dollar exchange rate,” said Cheryl Bruner.

The commissary, which is housed at the opposite end of the shopping center, is more than three times the

size of the old store and includes self-checkout lanes and a significant increase in brand selections.

“We listened to what the customers wanted and needed, and we have given it to them,” said Richard Page, chief operating officer for the Defense Commissary Agency.

The shopping center’s food court proved to be another popular highlight with customers waiting in lines that outside of the food court area.

The opening of the shopping center is the pinnacle of openings that took place throughout the community this summer.

“Today marks the culmination of a series of openings we have executed this summer and fall that included the new combined Troop Medical Clinic and dental center, the new shoppette and the new dining facility,” said Boyle during the grand opening ceremony.

AAFES Commander Brig. Gen. Keith Lee Thurgood explained the importance of having such a facility in Europe.

“Grafenwoehr is the largest training area in Europe and with the largest facility we make sure that we provide the Soldiers and Families the best services we can,” he said.

Thurgood predicted that the new facility would have a positive effect on the German economy, especially with people coming from all over Germany to see it.

“The new PX offers a taste of home for the Americans here. They will shop, and then they will go have dinner downtown,” predicted

Thurgood.

“We certainly will draw customers to shop in here,” said the new PX manager Stephanie Burns, noting that a large number of shoppers from other communities will make the trek to Grafenwoehr for the expanded

shopping opportunity.

Burns said AAFES expects to net three million dollars a month, and up to four million a month once the Soldiers redeploy and additional Soldiers arrive.

“We have become the ‘mecca’ for

AAFES and DeCA in Europe,” said Boyle. “No more traveling to Wuerzburg or Stuttgart. We have it here, or we can get it. And we will remain the biggest Army shopping center in Europe for the foreseeable future.”



The new commissary is three times the size of the old commissary and offers significantly more brand choices. It also features four self-checkout lanes, bakery, and a grab-n-go wam lunch counter.

Photo by Paula Guzman



HHC, JMTc Hosts: AFN Commercial

For our deployed members

Why? Show your support for our deployed JMTc Soldiers!!!
When? Tuesday, 9 OCT 07
Where? Main Headquarters Building
Who? All JMTc personnel are welcome!! Bring your children!

Bring a banner, bring your flags!!
We want to show our JMTc deployed Soldiers they are missed!





JMTc HAUNTED HOUSE



When? 26-27 October
What time? 7p.m. to 10p.m.
Where? The haunted old field house on Grafenwoehr Main Post (Park in the Burger King parking lot and walk across the street. The field house is located behind the old Shoppette building.)
Description: There will be two age-appropriate trails through the haunted old field house.


The first trail is the **LITE** version (for children) with ghouls and goblins on a fun-scary adventure, minus the horror.

The second trail is the **SCREAM** version (for teenagers and adults) with a gory trail through the most ghostly areas of the field house. This route may have chills running down your spine long after Halloween.

Cost? LITE version: \$2
SCREAM version \$3

There will be a craft area for the young kids to participate in while the older siblings are entertained. Sodas and snacks will also be available.

Point of Contact: Andrea Fortner - jonathon.h.fortner@us.army.mil



THE EAGLE

Serving America's Best

Look for AFN online at www.afneurope.net/bavaria, or on the radio!

AFN Bavaria Radio Frequencies			Grafenwoehr	
Town	AM	FM	1107	101.4
Amberg	1107	90.0	1485	89.4
Chiemsee		90.3		107.4
Garmisch	1485	90.3		107.4
			1107	107.6

Feedback needed for AAFES transformation

Continued From Page 1

Connection, German bakery, candy shop, and T-shirt and engraving shop. All the concessions are scheduled to be open by June 08.

The PXtra will become a sports specialty store, highlighting name-brand sporting clothing and equipment and will feature an indoor children's play area, complete with trampoline, basketball court, and rock climbing wall.

During the renovations "we will try to keep all of the food court open," said Boyle, noting that if it does close, it would be temporarily and only if absolutely necessary.

"I will continue to work to try to

support the community," said U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Brian Boyle.

To ensure that Vilseck residents continue to have immediate access to all basic needs products, Boyle explained that the Vilseck will Shoppette has expand its merchandise, including the addition of

make-up, small 220V appliances, hardware accessories and "Power Zone" items such as iPods, portable

DVD and MP3 players.

"Things that you need day-to-day, you are going to have them," assured Brig. Gen. David Hogg, the commander of the Joint Multinational Training Command.

But, he noted, to ensure AAFES is

carrying the items that residents need, feedback from the community will be crucial.

He, along with Boyle, encouraged residents to provide feedback using the Interactive Customer Evaluation, or ICE, system at <https://ice.disa.mil>.

"I understand it is painful for the community because it is a change," Boyle said about the community's growing pains. "At the same time I believe that with basic services and different mechanisms we will be able to provide what right looks like."

In addition to the store transformations, garrison will add an additional bus route that will make five roundtrips between Vilseck and Grafenwoehr daily.

Updated store hours at Vilseck and Grafenwoehr will go into effect Nov. 14 and are listed in a slide presentation that can be accessed by visiting the garrison homepage at www.grafenwoehr.army.mil and by clicking on the appropriate link in the top left corner of the page.

During a question and answer

session after the briefing, attendees asked for extended store hours and other adjustments to the transformation plan.

Matt Mennona, the garrison's AAFES' consolidated exchange manager, explained that profits were a big factor in how change could be made to the current inventory and hours.

Mennona explained that to be able to continue to make a profit, then donate 17 percent of that profit to the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation programs for Soldiers and Families, he has to sometimes make tough decisions. Mennona said community members should continue to give their feedback and suggestions, which will be reviewed and considered.

"We will increase the services, absolutely, if we can support it with the population (and bottom line profits)," said Hogg.

Boyle, Hogg, and Mennona asked for the community's patience and encouraged continued feedback.

"I under-stand it is painful for the community because it is a change,"

Boyle said. "At the same time I believe that with basic services and different mechanisms

we will be able to provide what 'right' looks like."

As for employment opportunities, Boyle said job openings should increase substantially, noting that 72 percent of the garrison workforce is German and American should apply now for jobs.

Sexual assault prevention and response program training a requirement

Special to the Bavarian News

Since mid-June 2005, the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program has been in effect all over the Army. The main objective of the SAPR Program outlined in Army Regulation 600-20 is to eliminate sexual assault incidents.

To fulfill this objective there are training requirements that must be completed so that we can ensure a well coordinated system in the prevention, response and accountability of sexual assault incidents in garrison or deployed areas.

The following training requirements are a must and must be completed:

Commanders and Senior NCOs SAPR Training. This training supplements the information that is provided at the Commanders/First Sergeants course and Rear Detachment Commanders Course. This training is critical to leaders so that they know who to call and what are the local procedures to take in case of a sexual assault incident. This briefing is recommended within the first 45 days of the leader taking or assuming command/responsibility.

Inprocessing Training Center briefing on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response. This training is critical because it covers the installation's sexual assault risk factors that new Soldiers should be on the look out for and it also covers the local resources and who to call should someone become a victim of sexual assault.

Annual Unit SAPR Training. This yearly training requirement is a good opportunity to remind Soldiers of risk factors associated with

sexual assault so that they are always on guard against sexual assault. The briefing covers measures Soldiers can take to avoid becoming victims of sexual assault or suspects in sexual assault cases. This training is very different from Prevention of Sexual Harassment.

Predeployment SAPR Training. This briefing prepares the Soldiers for the sexual assault risk factors associated with deployed areas.

Postdeployment SAPR Training. This training is normally given when units are re-integrating back into the installations. This training is very effective in the sense that it updates the Soldiers of the latest risk factors to look out for since they are returning to a safer and slower pace of operations.

Army Substance Abuse Program. This training provides information to the ASAP staff so that they are aware of the capabilities of sexual assault recovery resources available. Reporting options are also covered in this training.

Behavioral Health Personnel. This training provides these personnel with the proper actions to take should someone present at their facility to seek assistance in dealing with a sexual assault. This training also covers the reporting options available t.

Chaplains. This briefing informs all chaplains whether garrison or direct-unit assigned, of the available resources and procedures available to victims of sexual assault. Chaplains have a privileged information capability that affords them a higher level of

confidentiality. Reporting options are discussed to provide more options for chaplains in assisting victims of sexual assault.

Criminal Investigation Division. This training provides information when working with victims of sexual assault since CID is the main agency responsible for investigating these crimes. Victim advocacy procedures are covered so that CID is aware of these resources when initially responding to a sexual assault.

Deployable Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. This training is offered for the soldier that is assigned at the brigade level or higher to perform the duties of the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) in deployed areas. This training will prepare the soldier for the expected duties, responsibilities, procedures, etc. of a SARC in a deployed area. DSARCs are also trained as Unit Victim Advocates and serve as such in garrison environments.

Medical Personnel. This training covers expected actions of medical personnel should victims of sexual assault present at their facilities. This training is extremely useful in synchronizing expected protocols at the installation level and also in preparation of

deployment for medical personnel.

Military Police. This training provides information to the military police Soldier should they be required to support an investigation of a sexual assault. This training is also required for Military Police Desk Sergeants.

Staff Judge Advocate Personnel. This training informs the Legal Office personnel of proper actions to take should someone report a sexual assault at the Legal Office. Furthermore, the reporting options are discussed in full so that there is full understanding of these options for the most effective support of victims of sexual assault.

Unit Victim Advocates. This training is provided for Soldiers that have been appointed by the lieutenant colonel or higher commander to serve as unit victim advocates.

Contact your local SAPR coordinator for trainings, briefings or more information at:

- Ansbach – Billie Tucker – DSN 467-2516
- Bamberg – Karoushia Jordan – DSN 469-8397
- Grafenwoehr – Jay C. Velis – DSN 476-2733
- Hohenfels – Stacy Gatlin – DSN 466-4860
- Schweinfurt – Jon Davis – DSN 354-6435



HEALTHY EMPOWERMENT

BY DEMETRIUS WILLIS

Dear Demetrius,
I have been attending a lot of social events with neighbors and friends. This past weekend I was at a children's birthday party with cake, ice cream, and sodas.

These parties used to not be a problem or feel as awkward before I started dieting. It is difficult to be the only one in the room who is being healthy! I don't want to make others feel guilty for eating what they want just because I am on a diet.

How can I enjoy these events but stay on my diet?

"Have my cake and eat it too,"

Cecy

Dear Cecy,
I am very familiar with this "awkward" feeling you describe. It is difficult because we tend to celebrate "occasions" with food.

If you will be attending an event that you know will not have healthy food selections,

try to balance it out with your other meals.

Be sure to consume the recommended amount of fruit and vegetables and make your other meals as healthy as possible.

While at the celebration, choose small portion sizes. You can have a small piece of cake minus the icing and ice cream.

The most important thing is to keep leading by example with any parties you have. Choose themes that are active, like mini-Olympics or a scavenger hunt.

Provide snacks like popcorn, pretzels, trail mix, fruit with yogurt dip, and taco chips with salsa. For beverages, use 100 percent juice instead of soda (provide small cupts to drink from to help it last).

For the cake, try a pound cake or angel food cake with whip cream and fruit topping. When done correctly, this is delicious!

Good luck!

Demetrius

Send your nutrition and fitness questions to usagnews@EUR.army.mil. Demetrius is a registered dietician and a certified personal trainer.



All the staff at Vilseck U.S. Army Health Clinic intend your visit with us to be safe and comfortable, on your way to better health.

Provided are a list of the current services available and operating hours

Remember, become an active partner in your health care and your family's health care!

"Moving Forward!"



WOUNDED SOLDIER AND FAMILY HOTLINE
1-800-984-8523
overseas DSN 312-328-0002
stateside DSN 328-0002
email: wfsupport@conus.army.mil

WTU.Bavaria@amedd.army.mil

Behavioral Health (Bldg 316)	Annex (Bldg 225)	Main Clinic (Bldg 250)
<p>Mental Health M-TH 0800-1630 F 0800-1130 & 1500-1630 (Tel. 476-2995)</p> <p>Social Work Service 0730-1200 1300-1630 (Tel. 476-2100)</p> <p>EDIS 0730-1200 1300-1630 (Tel. 476-3221)</p> <p>Care Manager (Tel. 476-3324)</p>	<p>Physical Therapy M,T,W,F 0700-1130 & 1300-1600 TH 1300-1600 (Tel. 476-3322)</p> <p>Optometry M,T,W,F 0700-1130 & 1300-1600 TH 1300-1600 (Tel. 476-3322)</p> <p>Community Health Nurse 0800-1100 1300-1530 (Tel. 476-2165)</p> <p>Patient Liaison 0730-0800 & 1530-1600 (Tel. 476-2006)</p>	<p>Clinic Operating Hours M,T,W 0700-1930 TH 1000-1930 F 0700-1500 Sat 0900-1200 (Urgent Care Only) (Closed on Training Holidays & Federal Holidays)</p> <p>AD Sick Call Walk-in 0700-0730</p> <p>Family Member Care and Immunizations By Appointment (Tel.476-2804/2936)</p> <p>Pharmacy M,T,W 0730-1730 TH 1000-1730 F 0730-1500</p> <p>TRICARE Advisor By Appointment (Tel. 476-2804/2936)</p> <p>TRICARE Enrollment (Bldg 700, Rm 21) 0800-1130 1300-1600 (Tel. 476-2026)</p> <p>TRICARE Nurse Line (24/7) 08000-4759-2330</p>
Other Capabilities & Host Nation Partner Hospitals		
<p>Well Woman & Well Baby Exams ■ EFMP Screening ■ Physicals & Hearing (Bldg 225 W,F) ■ X-ray ■ Laboratory ■ Medical Boards 476-2633</p>	<p>Klinikum St. Marien Marienhilfbergweg 7 92224 Amberg www.klinikum-st-marien.de Phone: 09621-380</p> <p>Kreiskrankenhaus Sulzbach-Rosenberg Krankenhausstrasse 16 92237 Sulzbach-Rosenberg www.kh-as.de Phone: 09661-5200</p> <p>Emergencies: On-Post: Dial 116 or 476-2890 Off-Post: 112 or 09662-83-2890 / 2490</p>	

Do your part to prevent domestic abuse

Greetings from the Garrison! In mid-September we really had some great weather in Bavaria and I hope you took the opportunity to get outside and enjoy what may have been our Altweibersommer or as we call in America, “Indian Summer.”

As I write this column, it is raining, the leaves are changing colors, morning temperatures have been just above freezing and it is starting to get dark earlier and earlier.

The beginning of fall also brings a host of new events in Hohenfels and I would like to discuss a couple of these:

Safety

We have had a number of school related

safety incidents recently. The majority of these events occurred at or near bus stops both on and off post.

In once instance, a child was hit by a passing car while crossing the street outside a designated cross-walk. Luckily he was not injured, but the outcome could have been worse.

Drivers: please be aware of the location of our bus stops and school zones. Slow down in these areas, abide by the rules of the road when buses are stopped and children are getting on board, and keep an extra sharp watch for our kids in these areas both on and off post before and after school.

Parents: please remind your children to be extra vigilant for cars at the bus stops and on post before and after school hours.

Provide our children with a safe environment at bus stops and if you accompany your children to the bus stop, ensure both you and the kids act in a safe manner to provide the best environment for

our children to grow.

Domestic Abuse Prevention

Many of you have heard of the upswing in the number of domestic abuse cases within the Army over the past couple of years and sadly this trend has also occurred here in our community.

Domestic abuse is unacceptable behavior in any form and to combat this issue, the Army has declared October as Domestic Abuse Prevention Month.

Here in Hohenfels, our Family Advocacy Program is charged with this prevention mission. Our trained professionals are fully committed to assuring victims of domestic abuse that they are protected and that multiple sources of support and intervention are available to them in a confidential environment.

Domestic abuse is an issue that affects both male and female spouses and, in this community, we hold people accountable for their actions.

I ask everyone to be vigilant about all forms of domestic abuse and seek assistance through Army Community Service or the military police if you are a victim of domestic abuse.

Subway is coming to Hohenfels. You voiced your opinion as a community, and AAFES has responded.

Shortly after the New Year, Subway will replace Robin Hood as a great place to grab a healthy lunch or dinner option. We will provide more information on opening dates and times as they become available.

Enjoy the fall and always, Command Sgt. Maj. Clark and I look forward to seeing you around the post.

*Lt. Col. Gary Bloomberg
USAG Hohenfels
Commander*

Club Beyond teen program now in full swing

by CHRIS HOWARD

Special to the Bavarian News

Club Beyond, a teen program for youth ranging from seventh to twelfth grade, is now underway.

The weekly activities include H2O, Mug Coffeehouse, Club 413, and gender specific bible study groups. All weekly events are free and no registration is necessary. All youth have to do is show up and have fun.

H2O meets on Tuesdays at the Family Life and Youth Center, next to commissary, from 5–7p.m. The evening includes fellowship for all youth, a meal, a brief talk by an adult leader, and small group discussion time.

On Wednesdays, from 5–7p.m., the Mug Coffeehouse provides high school youth with a variety of programs at the FLAYC.

Teens can come and just hang out, do homework, play video games, board games, and other games that are available.

Each week, they can also participate in the main event for the evening. Programming includes movie nights,

karaoke nights, game shows, live bands, theme nights, and more.

Club 413 is the newest program to the Hohenfels community and is specifically for middle school youth and meets directly after school on Thursdays and lasts till about 5p.m. at the FLAYC.

The program offers youth get-to-know you mixers, fun songs, wacky games, a brief talk, and lots of fellowship time. The weekly Bible studies consist of about five to eight youth with an adult leader.

If youth are interested in participating in one of these studies they should contact Chris Howard, Club Beyond Community Director for Hohenfels.

Along with the weekly programs, Club Beyond offers plenty of exciting trips throughout the year.

Trips include mission trips (middle school in late August and high school over spring break), beach break camps (high school week right after school lets out in June and middle school week the following week), off-post trips (amusement park trip, water park

trip, and ski trips), and other youth retreats.

Trips are publicized in the Hohenfels newsbriefs and at the middle/high school lunches. The next trip is the amusement park trip Monday.

On Nov. 10, CB will be heading on a water park trip. These trips are offered for a low cost that includes free transportation and lunch.

While the programs and events are filled with fun and fellowship, the best part of Club Beyond is the life they offer teens. Adult staff and volunteers seek to build relationships with our young people at Hohenfels.

When teens are searching for answers in their lives, they can seek out one of these adults and get real answers to tough problems that teens face. Chris Howard stated that “the goal is to not only share the good news of the Life giver with teens, but to also share our lives with them.”

For more information about Club Beyond Hohenfels, contact Chris Howard at DSN 466-4793 or CIV 0151-1494-3311.



Photo by Hannah Smith

Tori Artman and Kayla Starnes are part of the Club Beyond teen group enjoying the many activities the club provides. Teens interested in getting involved in Club Beyond should contact Chris Howard at DSN 466-4793 or CIV 0151-1494-3311.

Child and Youth Services announces new programs

by TRUDA ROPER

Special to the Bavarian News

USAG Hohenfels Child and Youth Services is starting the new financial year with a real bang improving and enhancing a number existing services as well as offering some new and special things as well.

CYS started this new fiscal year Oct. 1 with new deployment support services being offered to Families of deployed Soldiers, DoD civilians, and heavily impacted rear detachment patrons.

These additional discounts will be an extension to the deployment services currently available to CYS patrons who are encouraged to contact our CLEOS office for complete details.

- Free annual registration during deployment (with deployment orders)
- Five free hours of deployment care (must obtain deployment card at CLEOS)

- 16 free hours of reunion care (must obtain reunion care card at CLEOS)

- R&R Respite: 10 free hours per child during R&R

- Free SKIES classes for families of deployed Soldiers or civilians

- Fee discount: 15 percent per child (full or part-day)

- Hourly care discount: 15 percent (deployed and heavily impacted rear detachment patrons)

- Sports fee discount: 15 percent per child per sport (deployed and heavily impacted rear detachment patrons)

- WTU: full day rates charged at CAT 1, 50 percent discount hourly care (free during hospitalization) and

50 percent discount for team sports

- Extended programming: special opening and command events provided at no cost to Soldiers or civilians

- Respite care: 10 hours per child for E-4 and below (available at CLEOS) No deployment status required.

Due to a number of positive situations, it has become necessary to move the KinderVillage Children from Child Development Center to School Age Services building.

While the cost of the program will remain the same, there are many advantages that the children will enjoy including the daily use of the gym as well as the new SAS playground.

There will be regular field trips provided at no extra charge. The ratio for kindergarten children will remain one staff to 12 children.

In order to add more flexibility to our CYS day care programs, a variety of half-day programs will be offered at half the price of full day care and payment will be at the same sliding scale fee as full-day care with the six categories based on family income.

Half-day care is for a maximum of six hours and three different schedules of care are available: 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., and noon – 6 p.m.

Families may choose one of these schedules to fit their child care needs.

The care will be provided at the CDC as a general rule. Half-day care slots are limited.

An additional infant and toddler room at the full-day CDC is being opened to accommodate the increased demand for this age group, and potentially include half-day care and overflow hourly care slots from our CDC Annex.

The Jump Start program, a new initiative of the pre-K program, is

being introduced at the CDC Annex and will be held everyday from 8:30 a.m. – noon.

This program is for 4- and 5-year-olds and is designed to introduce children to kindergarten subject matter and method of teaching.

Subjects include math, science, phonics, art, letter and shape recognition, and computer skills. Currently, seven children are signed up for the program and registrations

The Jump Start program, a new initiative of the pre-K program, is being introduced at the CDC Annex and will be held everyday from 8:30 a.m. – noon.



National Kids Days was celebrated in Hohenfels Sept. 15 with the grand opening of the new School Age Service playground. The facility was christened by (left) Sammy Brown, USAG Hohenfels Garrison Commander, and Tatyana Jackson.

Photo by Garry Barrows

Reality of PTSD hits home for Soldiers

by Capt. JUNEL JEFFREY
JMRC PAO

When Sgt 1st Class Nicholas Smith* took charge as detachment sergeant of a finance unit, he knew the job would be challenging. Exactly how challenging it would be, he would soon find out.

Smith deployed with the finance unit to Baghdad, Iraq in 2003. While he was not diagnosed with from post traumatic stress disorder, Smith says the experienced a great deal of pressure from various sources.

“CPT Bayne* and I were changing over cash authority and we came under mortar attack,” Smith said. “I had to secure the funds and make it to the bunker for accountability. The bunker was about 200 meters away, and rounds were still incoming.

“I would wonder if I would get back safely to my son and about the safety of the Soldiers while they were out on missions,” Smith said. “Then when we got extended, it felt like I was never going to leave Iraq.”

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, PTSD is an anxiety disorder that can develop after exposure to a terrifying event or ordeal in which grave physical harm occurred or was threatened.

NIMH lists military combat as one of the reasons people develop PTSD.

Christine Pongratz, a marriage and Family

“ I would wonder if I would get back safely to my son and about the safety of the Soldiers while they were on missions. Then when we got extended, it felt like I was never going to leave Iraq.

Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Smith
PTSD patient

therapist with the Hohenfels Social Work Services Office, says Soldiers can best recover from PTSD through early intervention.

“It’s almost like their survival instinct was turned all the way up on a dimmer switch and they can’t turn it down when they get back to safety,” Pongratz said. “So, we take some techniques to turn it down.

“We now know, based on the historical evidence of PTSD, and I’m thinking all the way back to WWII and through Vietnam, we now know it can be treated and many of them can be treated in garrison or on post and get back to being the Soldier they want to be,” said Pongratz.

Pongratz estimates that 20 percent to 30 percent of redeploying Soldiers exhibit symptoms of PTSD or Mild Traumatic Brain Injury, which can occur when the brain is

forcefully shaken, i.e. from the impact of a roadside bomb.

Smith says he’s glad to be out of the combat zone, but it took about six month for him to get back to his level of normalcy.

“Loud noises bothered me; they still do a little. I needed time. I still need a little,” Smith said. “I appreciate life a lot more, and I’ve gotten closer to God. But, most of all I observe my surroundings a lot looking for escape routes in case of danger.”

“PTSD goes from zero to 100; mild, moderate, or severe, and you’re judging it based on that person,” Pongratz said.

“We know that the sooner you treat it, the easier it is to treat and the quicker you get back to normal. Untreated, your symptoms get worse. You are less effective in your normal daily life.”

In an effort to raise awareness about PTSD

and MTBI amongst service members, the Army recently implemented a training program designed to give leaders, Families and Soldiers information about the causes, symptoms and treatment associated with both disorders.

All Army personnel must complete the initial awareness training program by Oct. 18.

Leaders can access training resources at www.us.army.mil and should then maintain an open dialogue with their Soldiers about the disorders.

Pongratz believes the small group training will allow leaders and professionals to answer questions that adequately address Soldiers’ concerns.

She says the open discussion may also reduce the stigma.

“Leaders can be more supportive by being aware and recognizing that this is a normal response to the abnormal situation of war,” said Pongratz.

“People like me and the other providers have been particularly trained to help people through those kinds of problems.”

“People handle stress differently,” Smith said. “If a command thinks his/her Soldiers needs help they should use every agency available.”

** Names have been changed to protect the persons interviewed for this article*

U.S. Constitution comes alive for HES students

by ELIZABETH MAULDIN
Special to the Bavarian News

“We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union...”

If that is all you can remember of the Preamble to the United States Constitution, there is an entire fifth grade class at Hohenfels Elementary School who can recite the rest of it for you, thanks to their studies in preparation for Constitution Day.

If you don’t remember Constitution Day from your own school days, you are not alone. In fact, Constitution Day, Sept. 17, only became a reality in 2006, when President George W. Bush signed it into law.

Now that there is a day to celebrate the Constitution, though, schools are jumping on the bandwagon to promote an understanding of and appreciation for the document that forms the basis for laws in the United States.

Hohenfels Elementary School was a part of this national celebration of our extraordinary Constitution.

Laura Boles’s fifth grade class spent weeks preparing for a reenactment of the events that led to the writing and ratification of the



Laura Boles’ fifth grade class completed their presentation on the U.S. Constitution by reciting the Preamble during Constitution Day festivities at Hohenfels Elementary School.

Photo by Garry Barrows

Constitution 220 years ago. Students made wigs and dressed in colonial costumes, including breeches and long stockings.

Each student represented a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, and studied the reasons

some states wanted to ratify the Constitution and why some didn’t.

“I can appreciate the Anti-Federalists’ opinions at the convention because they did not know what would happen with the new Constitution,” said Cameron

Hartfield, who played Benjamin Franklin.

The students spent time learning about the division of powers among the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches.

“I am glad that we have three

branches with equal power,” said Gavin Maynard, who played Virginia Governor Edmond Randolph.

Maynard’s character, Randolph, created the Virginia Plan, which proposed the strong central government made up of three branches.

Their study brought to the students an awareness of how complicated devising a system of government can be.

Erikka Miller portrayed the Philadelphia city librarian.

“I appreciate all those people who worked in that hot stuffy room to make the Constitution,” she said.

Anderson Peguero, speaking as Alexander Hamilton, added, “I am glad the Constitution was made because it finally brought order to the new United States.”

The finale of the students’ presentation included the recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution.

After the conclusion of their study of the Constitution, came the same sense of relief the original participants must have felt.

“I am so glad we do not have to wear those wigs all the time!” exclaimed Pennsylvania Delegate Alex Kingsbury.

Hispanic Heritage Celebration teaches Hohenfels about diversity

by Master Sgt. CHRISTOPHER T. MULVIHILL
Special to the Bavarian News

¡Viva la diversidad!

The Hohenfels Hispanic Heritage Celebration was a day long event held Sept. 15 in several locations throughout the community.

It was indeed a celebration of the diversity of the Hispanic culture filled with events, speeches, contests and a multitude of activities that left many in our community with a greater appreciation of the rich cultures of our Hispanic brothers and sisters.

The day began with a special Hispanic Heritage luncheon at the 1-4 Infantry Dining Facility where special guest and keynote speaker, Maj. Gen. Rhett Hernandez, Chief, U.S. Military Training Mission, Saudi Arabia, spoke about values and some of the adversity he has endured as a Hispanic American.

“It all comes down to one word - opportunity,” said Hernandez. “I have an opportunity to be a part of a diverse team, but can bring my uniqueness, experience, and background to the team to make it better.

“I have an opportunity to serve

with pride, to be a role model, to lead, to advance on merit and character, to help others, to be myself and to make a difference,” he said during the celebration.

Following the luncheon, a variety of activities kicked off at The Zone including pinata breaking, a traditional dress display, a jalapeno eating contest, “grito” (cry) contest, line dancing exhibition, teen poster contest, food sampling, a Latin dance contest, and Latin music provided by deejay Alvaro Cordova.

“I think people need to get to know Hispanics. This type of event breaks down stereotypes and allows other people to experience a different culture” said Tania Glendening, originally from El Salvador.

“I’ve never been to a Hispanic heritage event. It is new to me. I’m really excited to taste the food from different countries you might never get a chance to visit. It’s pretty cool.”

This sentiment was echoed by many attendees.

Elena Renehan, a Mexican-American and one of the event committee members, felt that even for Hispanics in the community it was a valuable learning event.

“Because Hohenfels is such a small community, I think it’s important to recognize all of the diverse Hispanics within the community”, she said.

“Not only do you get to meet people from your own background, but you make new friends as well.”

Another event committee member, Eunice Garcia, whose husband is deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom had the same feeling.

“There’s a lot of diversity in our culture. We’re a tapestry. We celebrate each others’ differences,” she said.

As the cultural revelry wound down and folks drifted off into the evening, they left with a better appreciation for Hispanic contributions to American society, and a spark of interest for learning about other diverse cultures.

Given the outstanding reaction to the cultural aspects of the Hispanic peoples, the upcoming observance of American Indian Heritage Month in November should be very well attended.

For more information about cultural heritage events in and around Hohenfels, contact Master Sgt. Mulvihill at DSN 466-4102.



Photo by Billy Cargile

Children scramble for candy that spilled from a pinata after at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels’ Hispanic Heritage Celebration. The next cultural celebration, American Indian Heritage Month, will take place in November. Contact Master Sgt. Christopher Mulvihill for more information.

Charging Boar tests emergency response

Continued From Page 1

a bus, and the theater had people in them at the time of the incident. The injured were played by Vilseck High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets and German volunteers, on the scene and in place before the 7:45 a.m. explosion kicked the exercise.

The military police were the first on the scene just minutes after the explosion. The post fire department, manned by local nationals, was close behind, and soon an actual blaze, billowing a tower of dark smoke, was put out and the responders began assessing the situation and checking for casualties.

The responders were quickly joined by EMS and fire departments of other host nation communities surrounding Grafenwoehr.

The emergency response vehicles could be heard long before they were seen blasting down the quiet streets of the installation on the early Saturday morning.

The roads around the blast site were crammed filled with response vehicles, serving the dual task of blocking off the scene and providing support.

Emergency responders evacuated the blood-soaked casualties and treated their wounds, ranging from minor cuts and concussions to punctures and life-threatening losses

of limb. Approximately 35 casualties were rescued from the bus and theater and taken, initially, to the parade field across the street from the theater, where responders practiced identifying the assortment of injuries.

Observers could sense the adrenaline as responders put their skills to the test. Media Relations Officer Franz Zeilmann, who has worked in U.S. Army Public Affairs for over 15 years and participated in many mass casualty exercises, said the recent training was realistic.

“Even nonparticipating community members got a feeling of the emergency situation,” said Zeilmann. “Force protection levels were raised for a short period of time and there were delays at some of our gates.”

To complicate the exercise and add to the realism, a yellow smoke cloud symbolizing a biohazard wafted across the theater parking lot as casualties were evacuated, contaminating everyone who did not have on biochemical protective suits.

Host nation responders promptly stood up a decontamination unit, which in this case sprayed only water, but for an actual biohazard would contain different cleaners depending on the exposure.

Depending on their reactions to the various scenarios throughout the exercise, some responders became



A host nation firefighter tends to a U.S. “casualty” while waiting for the paramedics.



Firefighters from the USAG Grafenwoehr fire department, who were among the first responders, put out a blazing car fire caused by an explosion during the exercise.

casualties.

In addition, they found “suspicious devices and packages around the theater that required us to use K9 and Explosive Ordinance Disposal to clear,” said Gillespie.

“The exercise was a great effort between American and German response forces,” said Gillespie. “The host nation responded quickly and effectively to the incident. USAG Grafenwoehr looks forward to future exercises with the county of Neustadt,” he said.

Zeilmann agreed on how well garrison and the host nation worked together.

“The exercise was very realistic. Both German and U.S. response

agencies tested their response time and capacity to the full extent” he said.

While ground scene was unfolding, a central operations center, known as the Crisis Management Action Team, was stood up. The role of the CMAT was to funnel information to the appropriate venues and track all ground events, basically “conducting consequence management for the garrison,” explained Gillespie.

After the exercise, the participants gathered in the Grafenwoehr field house for lunch and an after-action review.

Neustadt County Commissioner Simon Wittmann called the exercise successful, “and both the U.S. Army

and the county were able to test their resources,” Wittmann said. “Germans and Americans can feel safe within the Neustadt County.”

“Members of the community should feel confident that U.S. and host nation forces will respond to any incident, regardless of the cause,” assured Gillespie. “In conjunction with the host nation, we plan these annual exercises with particular goals and training objectives. Working together with the host nation shows the commitment of our host nation partners while rehearsing our response procedures.”

He said next year’s exercise will probably involve the county of Amberg-Sulzbach.



After discovering a potential biohazard, local national first responders set up a decontamination unit, which required workers to wear hazardous material suits.



The bus, which symbolized the fuselage of the downed plane, was flooded with smoke to make rescuing those aboard more difficult and the exercise realistic.



Paramedics from communities surrounding Grafenwoehr responded to the call for additional help and worked together to care for the injured.

USAREUR experts working to improve suicide prevention process

by Sgt. AIMEE MILLHAM
USAREUR Public Affairs

With just under 100 suicides in 2006, the Army’s suicide rate is at its highest in 26 years. The Army hopes to bring those numbers down by stressing that suicidal thoughts are not a sign of weakness.

“It doesn’t mean that you’re unable to manage; it simply means there are probably changes that have occurred as a result of chronic stress,” said Gary Southwell, chief of outpatient behavioral health at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and the Europe Regional Medical Command psychology consultant to the Army surgeon general.

When the numbers were published in the Army Suicide Event Report in August, they were not unleashed on an Army that was unprepared to deal with the issue.

The U.S. Army participates in National Suicide Prevention Week each year, and in March kicked off a new Army Standard Suicide Awareness Program that will include mandatory suicide prevention training for Soldiers.

The new program emphasizes

practical protective steps for suicide prevention instead of the mere recognition of warning signs, said Chaplain (Col.) Don Rutherford, U.S. Army Europe command chaplain, whose office is the proponent for suicide prevention in USAREUR. The program also stresses that leaders should not discriminate against Soldiers who receive mental health counseling.

“No one is perfect,” said Lt. Col. Robert F. Whittle Jr., rear detachment commander for the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. “I don’t think anyone in the world would suffer from seeing a mental health counselor.”

Whittle said he has seen the stigma against seeking mental health diminish in his time in the Army, and he attributes that decline to having a force that is more keen on understanding the toll constant deployment and war can take on Soldiers.

“There are so many outstanding leaders who come back (from this war), and say ‘I want to see a counselor,’ and they say it with their heads held high,” he said.

One way experts are working to

remove the stigma of seeking help is by treating suicidal thoughts as a medical condition.

“It doesn’t imply that the person is weak or crazy ... It’s simply a physiological change that can be treated. It can happen to anybody,” said Southwell.

He explained that people who are under chronic excessive pressure begin to produce high levels of cortisol from the adrenal gland, and there is a correlation between levels of cortisol and suicidal thinking and behavior.

“Their brain begins to physiologically change,” Southwell said, and that can lead to suicidal thoughts in people who have never received psychiatric treatment or ever considered themselves to be depressive.

The most common stress among Soldiers experiencing suicidal thoughts is interpersonal stress, which stems from relationship problems and problems with Family members, Southwell said.

A typical example is a deployed Soldier who has to face the stress of not having control over Family affairs

at that same time he is experiencing the stress of a high operational tempo, Southwell added.

It doesn’t help that the demographic most likely to face intense combat stress is also the population group most susceptible to suicide and suicidal thoughts: males between the ages of 18 and 25, Rutherford said.

The most common symptoms of suicidal behavior include anxiety; chronic worry; ruminating thoughts; a sudden change in personality, and a sudden desire to get affairs in order, Rutherford said.

He added that staying generally healthy and making wise personal, social and financial choices are key in preventing depression and avoiding the overwhelming and hopeless feelings of stress that result in suicidal thoughts.

Southwell emphasized that anyone experiencing suicidal thoughts should get help immediately.

“These thoughts are a cue that they really have gotten to a point where they may need to get some help,” Southwell said

If you recognize or suspect that a

peer is thinking of killing himself, don’t keep it to yourself, Rutherford said.

“If you keep it a secret, trying to help someone’s career out, you’re keeping a very deadly secret,” he said.

He added that it is also important to be straightforward with the suicidal person and ask, “Are you thinking about killing yourself?” Rutherford explained that this approach is generally effective, because most Soldiers experiencing suicidal thoughts are “sitting on the fence between life and death,” and may simply be waiting to see if anyone cares enough to ask.

As Whittle put it, “The only way to ensure that someone isn’t judged on a decision they made in the last 30 seconds of their life is by keeping them from making the wrong decision.”

The Web site for the Army’s Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine offers a wide variety of suicide prevention training and education resources.

For information, visit chppm-www.apgea.army.mil, click on “S,” and follow the suicide prevention link.

What's Happening

Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Briefs

General officer announcement

The President has nominated Army Brig. Gen. David A. Rubenstein for the appointment to the grade of major general. Rubenstein is currently serving as commanding general, Europe Regional Medical Command, Command Surgeon, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany.

Register now for Cub Scouts

Are you a boy in 1st through 5th grade? Do you like to camp, go on fun trips, learn new skills and make friends? Then Cub Scout Pack 261 in Grafenwoehr is for you! Call Jean Boyle at CIV 09641-931616 for more information.

Help Kontakt Club send packages to Strykers

Kontakt Vilseck is sending care packages to Soldiers of 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment. If you would like to support the 2nd SCR Soldiers in Iraq, you are able to drop personal hygiene or food items at the Kontakt Club in Vilseck. We will take care of sending them down range. Drop the items at our Clubhouse (Bldg. 2222, above the Library) every Friday from 7-9 p.m.

Garrison school update

Information is available at each school Web site:

<http://www.graf-es.eu.dodea.edu/>
<http://www.vils-es.eu.dodea.edu/>
<http://www.graf-ms.eu.dodea.edu/>
<http://www.vils-hs.eu.dodea.edu/>

School contact information:

GES: DSN 475-7133
 VES: DSN 476-2812
 GMS: DSN 475-9500
 VHS: DSN 476-2554
 Transportation: DSN 475-8954,
Dates

■ Tomorrow: "Muffins for Moms and Donuts for Dads." From 7:45-8:15 a.m. at the Vilseck Elementary School Annex. Students must be accompanied by parents. Call DSN 476-2812 or CIV 09662-832812 for information.

■ Monday: Columbus Day, No School

■ Oct. 19: VES Professional Development Day, No School for VES Students

CYS hosts open gym

Starting in September, CYS will open the CDCs and SASs on Friday nights until 9 p.m. and alternate opening two Saturdays a month between the Vilseck and Graf communities. The Teen Centers will also staff "Open Gym" on Saturday afternoons in both communities. For more information, call Central Registration at Graf: DSN 475-6656 or Vilseck: DSN 476-2760.

GCSC hosts fashion show

On Oct. 16, the Grafenwoehr

Community Spouses Club is hosting a fashion show featuring fabulous Thrift Shop finery. Come see these hot trends on your friends at the Chapel Annex. The doors open at 5:45 p.m. and the show starts at 6:30 p.m. Entrance fee is \$10. This fashion show is open to all GCSC members but, if you're not a member, you can join that night. RSVP by e-mail to gcscmembership@yahoo.com by Oct. 11.

USAG Grafenwoehr Retiree Appreciation Day Oct. 27

Retiree appreciation day will be held Oct. 27. Registration will be held from 7:30 – 9 a.m. at the Tower View Conference Center. Informational booths will open from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. and there will be door prizes drawn throughout the day with plenty of events designed with the Retiree in mind. A Health Fair complete with medical/dental screenings and informational booths will be held at the brand new Grafenwoehr Health and Dental Clinics.

Retirees and their Family members will be able to register in advance for medical appointments to make better use of their time and eliminate the need of waiting. Appointments will be taken on a "first-come, first-serve" basis by calling the Grafenwoehr Health Clinic starting Sunday at CIV 09641-83-1750.

Be sure to let them know it is for a Retiree Open House medical appointment when scheduling. Dental screenings will be done on a "walk-in" basis only from 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Tours of the "new" Grafenwoehr will also be available. Join us for a special Retiree Appreciation Day meal to be served at our local dining facility. There will be a wide variety of choice from including steak, lobster, and shrimp for \$6.25 per person.

For more information, contact the USAG Grafenwoehr Retirement Services Office at DSN 475-8539/8540 or CIV 09641-83-8539/8540. We may also be contacted via e-mail at: usag.graf.rso@graf.eur.army.mil.

Register now for Term II

The University of Maryland University College Europe offers course registration Oct. 15-26 for on-site courses and now through Nov. 7 for online courses. The Term 2 on-site schedule begins Oct. 29 and the online distance education schedule begins Nov. 12. For a list of courses leading to a certificate or associate's, bachelor's, or master's degree, students may visit UMUC Europe online at www.ed.umuc.edu.

AWAG registration now open

The American Woman's Activities, Germany Oberpfalz Area Conference will be held Nov. 17 from 8:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the CATC Bldgs. 355, 378 and 379, in Vilseck.

A light breakfast, lunch, classes and great door prizes are included in the \$20 registration. Class topics include: Deployment issues, Professional

Development, Self Help and Volunteering. Guest speaker, Brig. Gen. David Hogg, will address the attendees over lunch.

Pre-registration is required by Nov. 5. Go to <http://www.awag.us/> and click on the Oberpfalz link to register online or to download a registration form.

For more information: Roseanna Cintron at CIV09641-454085 or e-mail: oberpfalz@awag.us.

Vilseck Health Clinic offers Well Baby Wednesday

Each Wednesday, the Vilseck Clinic will run an all day well-baby exam clinic. Scheduled exams for the well-baby are at 2 weeks, 4 weeks, 2 months, 6 months, 9 months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, 36 months, and 48 months.

Parents that make these appointments are encouraged to keep their appointments. Appointment no-shows hurt your access to care and result in wasted time and resources and deny appointment opportunities to other patients. Call DSN 476-2936/2804 to cancel or reschedule your appointment.

Earn bonus miles with Walk 4 Freedom classes

Earn 25 bonus miles by attending these classes.

■ Tomorrow: Nutrition 101 – Vilseck Health Clinic Annex from 12:15-12:45 p.m., pre-register by contacting Isabel Tilzey at DSN 476-2165 or isabel.tilzey1@us.army.mil.

■ Oct. 18: Fitting Fast Food into a Healthy Lifestyle – Bldg. 539 conference room, Grafenwoehr from 12:15-12:45, pre-register by contacting Tracy Svalina at DSN 475-8433 or tracy.svalina@us.army.mil.

MWR sponsors Fun Run

On Saturday, earn double miles for Operation Walk 4 Freedom by participating in the 5K & 10K Fun Run at the Graf Physical Fitness Center. Join us between 8:30 – 9 a.m. for final registration and a Safety Brief at 9:15 a.m. The race will start at 9:30 a.m.

CYS offers Skate Night

On Oct. 12, join the Vilseck SAS as they skate the night away from 6:30-9:30 p.m. K-5th is welcome and must be registered with CYS. The cost is \$3. For more information: CYS at DSN 476-2760 or 475-6656.

Vilseck Health Clinic closed

On Oct. 12, the Vilseck Health Clinic will be closed all day for organizational day. The clinic will remain closed except emergencies. If health care advice is needed, call the TriCare Nurse Advice Line: 00800-825-1600 (from land line) or 00800-4759-2330 (from a cell phone). If urgent care is needed, go to your nearest hospital, either in Amberg or Sulzbach-Rosenberg. In the event of an on-post emergency, call CIV 09662-83-2890 or 2490.

Hohenfels Briefs

Old Rock Quarry Running Path is "Off Limits"

Rock Quarry Trails and Wooded area are Off-Limits to Runners and Hikers, as directed by DPW and Safety Office. "DPW NOTICE: The wooded area between the Sportsplatz and the Rock Quarry operation is now off-limits. Individuals should not enter areas that have been marked off-limits with signage and red/white ribbons. The woods roads leading from the Sportsplatz to the Rock Quarry area, which have been marked off-limits, should not be entered. This area is off-limits due to the DPW explosive blasting operations that are being conducted at the rock quarry."

Library Closure

The Turnbull Memorial Library will be closed for cleaning Saturday and Sunday.

Scholarship, award opportunity announced

Student scholarships and teacher awards VFW would like to give away awards and scholarships to the community.

There are different age categories for the students and this includes Homeschoolers. Essays and Applications must be turned in by Nov. 1 at the Elementary and High Schools, Teen Center or to the School Liaison in Bldg. 309. Contact Michele Wolff by e-mail for more information at michele.wolff@us.army.mil.

College night held Oct. 11

Hohenfels will host a College Night Oct. 11, 6-8 p.m. at Hohenfels High School. This event is a huge success because of community support. All you need to do is contact your university or college and let them know that you need brochures and goodies for 150 students. Now is the time to contact your school. If you would like to represent your school, contact the School Liaison at michele.wolff@us.army.mil.

Register now for YS winter sports basketball and cheer

The Youth Sports Winter Basketball and Cheerleading season is just around the corner. The enrollment dates are now through Oct. 29 for ages 5-15 years. With late enrollment dates from Oct. 29-Nov. 9 a \$5.00 late fee will be assessed. The first 25 people enrolled in the sport will receive a free goody bag. First come first serve. The season begins on Nov. 26. A sports physical needs to be on file at CLEO'S at the time of enrollment. For more information contact Youth Sports at DSN 466-2558/2488 or CIV: 09174-83-2558/2488.

No PT along Gate 5

No PT running is allowed along the Gate 5 road from Camp Albertshof. PT is not allowed in the Hohenfels training area (within "the Box") without prior approval/coordination from the USAG-Hohenfels Garrison DPTMS Opns and JMRC S3/EXCON. POC: Lt. Col. Daniel Redden, JMRC, S3/CHOP

Energy saver checklist

DPW Hohenfels Energy Saver Checklist for Home and Work - It's Common Sense

1. Turn Off Unnecessary Lights, at Home and Work.
 2. Turn Off Printers and Copiers at end of day.
 3. Turn Off Coffeemakers and Fans not in use.
 4. Replace Incandescent Bulbs with Energy Saving Fluorescent Bulbs.
 5. Unplug Transformers and Equipment not in use.
 6. Use Natural Lighting when possible, Open the Blinds and Drapes.
 7. Turn Down the Thermostat - Put on a Warm Shirt or Sweater.
 8. Close Doors and Windows in Heated and Air Conditioned Buildings.
- Make Your Personal Contribution Toward Army Energy Security - It All Adds Up!"

Gate 3 closure

Gate 3 and the Schmidmeuhlen road from Guard point 6 to gate 3 will close from 9 p.m. Friday to 9 p.m. Oct. 21.

Donate now to CFC

2007 Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas As a United States Service

Member or a Department of Defense civilian serving far from home, you can help create a better world by contributing to one or more of the many worthy organizations supported by the CFC-O. Whether protecting the environment, honoring military veterans, advancing medical research, aiding refugees or providing job training to the homeless, the CFC-O has something for everyone. CFC-O is conducting a giveaway as part of this year's campaign. By completing a pledge card, whether you donate or not, you are eligible to win. Winners will be randomly selected in April 2008 and notified by phone and/or in writing by the CFC-O. If you wish to take the opportunity and help make the world a better place, contact Ms. Cathryn Young at DSN 466-4397 or stop by Bldg. 10 Room 103- http://www.cfcoverseas.org/files/docs/Flyer_horizontal07.pdf.

Attend AWAG conference

AWAG Oberpfalz Area Conference, Nov. 17, 8:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Rose Barracks, Vilseck, Germany CATC Buildings 355, 378, and 379.

Submit fliers by tomorrow

Any organization wanting to have fliers or brochures distributed at the Oct. 10 Town Hall meeting should provide 75 copies each item to ACS, Bldg. 317, no later than close of business on tomorrow. For further information, contact Amy Bernath, DSN 466-2082.

CTC registration now open

Interested in a degree in Early Childhood Professions or Criminal Justice Central Texas College's registration for Term II is starting soon!

Registration runs through Oct. 12 for the following courses: CDEC 1321 The Infant and Toddler. Class dates: Oct. 22-Dec. 15. Class times: Monday and Wednesday, 6-8 p.m.

CJSA 1342 Criminal Investigation. Class dates: Oct. 23-Dec. 15. Class times: Tuesday and Thursday, 6-9 p.m.

If you have any questions or need help registering stop by the Education Center Room 8 or call DSN 466-3140.

Registration office hours, through Oct. 12, are Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sure Start program at HES

Hohenfels Elementary School Sure Start Program 2007-2008 Attention parents: If you have a child that is 4 or will be 4 by Oct. 31, 2007 and you are an E1-E4; we want you!

Pick up an application for the Sure Start Program at the Hohenfels Elementary School. For more information, contact the Hohenfels Elementary School at DSN 466-2729.

Olympia Gym closed Saturday for cleaning

Bldg. 47 will be closed for cleaning on Saturday.

Confidential counseling now available in Hohenfels

Confidential counseling is available at the FLAYC, Bldg. 743, across from the commissary, on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments can be made to see CH (Maj.) Darin Nielsen or counselor intern Beth FitzGerald by calling DSN 466-1570, DSN 466-4795 or DSN 476-3276. Counseling is available for Soldiers, spouses, civilians, and Family members.

Take part in chapel marriage seminar Oct. 26

A marriage enrichment seminar is being offered on Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hilltop Chapel Center. Free childcare will be provided and a free lunch will be presented for those in attendance. Even if your spouse is unable to attend, you are invited to come. RSVP by Oct. 19 to Family Life CH (Maj.) Darin Nielsen at DSN 476-3276.

Health Clinic changes

Due to a shortage of doctors in the Health Clinic caused by a recent deployment, we will implement the following changes between until Nov. 30:

- 1) All non-AD Soldier well women exams (PAPs) will be referred to our GYN provider in Burlangenfeld through TRICARE.
- 2) The Clinic will not be able to see any paid patients: DoDDS teachers, USAG-H staffers, or contractors. We will continue to see AD Soldiers, dependents, retirees, reservists, and Afghan soldiers.

2007 COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN-OVERSEAS
 Support the CFC-O and have the chance to win one of three great prizes

The 2007 CFC-O is conducting a Giveaway as part of this year's campaign. By completing a pledge card, whether you donate or not, you are eligible to win. Winners will be randomly selected in April 2008 and notified by phone and/or in writing by the CFC-O.

Enter now and win!

FIRST PRIZE
 Brand New 2008 Harley-Davidson Sportster

SECOND PRIZE
 2 Airline Tickets

THIRD PRIZE
 \$1,000 Savings Bond

CONTACT INFORMATION

Central, European, Southern Commands
 CFC-O Europe
 DSN 314-489-6555
 CIV (inside Germany) 0631-536-6555
 CIV (outside Germany) 49-631-536-6555
 E-mail: europe@cfcoverseas.org

Pacific Command
 CFC-O Pacific
 DSN 315-225-9997
 CIV (inside Japan) 042-552-2510 Ext. 5-9997
 CIV (outside Japan) 81-311-555-9997
 E-mail: pacific@cfcoverseas.org

Exchange
 New Car Sales
www.excc.com/dco

Special thanks to Exchange New Car Sales and GEICO for supporting the CFC-O

Vehicle shown is for illustration only and may contain optional equipment at additional cost.

GEICO DIRECT
www.geico.com

Make a World of Difference

What’s Happening

Ansbach Briefs

Junior enlisted spouses’ seminar set for Oct. 15

The 12th Combat Aviation Brigade hosts a junior enlisted spouses seminar Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Katterbach Chapel Fellowship Hall. The seminar is designed for spouses of Soldiers E-5 and below.

Getting Back to Basics is the theme for the event and features Army Family Team Building I, In the Eyes of a First Sergeant, and questions and answers with senior spouses.

For more information, call Veronica Martin at DSN 467-3548 or CIV 09802-83-3548 or e-mail her at veronica.a.martin@eur.army.mil.

Hispanic Heritage luncheon

The USAG Ansbach community will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a luncheon tomorrow from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Katterbach Dining Facility. The guest speaker will be Sgt. 1st Class Felix P. Gomez, pastor of Katterbach’s Hispanic Pentecostal service.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Kimberley Bradford at CIV 09802-83-2820 or CIV 0174-601-8417.

Single Soldier retreat

The chapel hosts a single Soldier retreat to Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch Oct. 25-27. A bus will be available to transport Soldiers to the Edelweiss. To register or for more information, call DSN 467-2785 or CIV 09802-83-2785.

SKIES offers music lessons

SKIES Unlimited recently started a music lesson program. The program offers guitar, voice, drum, and keyboard lessons to children ages 6-18 and also a program called Kinder Music for ages 1-6. Quarterly private lessons cost \$280, group lessons are \$210 and Kinder Music lessons cost \$130. For more on the program, call Bryan Osewalt at DSN 467-4639 or CIV 09841-83-4639.

Help kids get needed glasses

The Ansbach Spouses and Civilians Club sponsors the Bright Eyes program to get children who qualify for free or reduced lunches at the schools up to \$50 off of the cost of eye glasses.

For more on the program or to find out how to apply, call your child’s school’s nurse, or contact Sarah Tipple at sarah.tipple@us.army.mil or CIV 09802-83-2064.

‘Sleeping Beauty’ auditions

The Terrace Playhouse hosts auditions for its production of the play “Sleeping Beauty” at 7 p.m. Oct. 10-11. Roles are available for community members of all ages. USAG Ansbach’s center for live entertainment is located in the Bleidorn Housing Area in Bldg. 5091.

For more information, call DSN 468-7636 or CIV 0981-183-636.

CIF closes Oct. 15-19

The central issue facility on Barton Barracks and the CIF annex on Storck Barracks will be closed Oct. 15-19 to conduct inventory. The offices will resume their normal hours Oct. 22.

For more on the closures, call DSN 468-7919 or CIV 0981-183-919.

ACAP update

Upcoming ACAP events include a Federal Application Seminar, Oct. 22, a Veterans Administration Benefit Briefing Nov. 6 and an Employment Assistance Workshop Nov. 13-15. Soldiers and their spouses who are one year from possible separation or two years from possible retirement are eligible to attend. Spouses of Soldiers currently deployed who anticipate separating shortly after reintegrating are eligible to attend ACAP while the service member is deployed.

Call ACAP at DSN 467-3312 or CIV 09802-83-3312 for more information or to register for events.

Toastmasters class set

Sarah Tipple, USAG Ansbach Army Emergency Relief officer, is looking into starting a Toastmasters group in the community.

She said the group helps people communicate more effectively, become better listeners, improve presentation skills, increase leadership potential, become more successful in their careers, build their ability to motivate and

persuade, reach their professional and personal goals, and increase their self confidence.

To start a group, 20 people need to sign up. If you’re interested or would like more information on Toastmasters International, call Tipple at CIV 09802-83-2064 or send her an e-mail at sarah.tipple@us.army.mil.

Red Cross classes announced

The American Red Cross at USAG Ansbach offers these classes in October:

■ Community first aid and safety, adult and infant child cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid—Oct. 9-11 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Storck Barracks. Exact location to be determined. Cost is \$35.

■ Community first aid and safety, adult and infant child CPR and first aid—Oct. 11-12 from 6-10 p.m. at the Katterbach Army Community Service classroom. Cost is \$35.

■ Babysitting and babysitting instructors class, including infant and child CPR—Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with location TBD. Cost is \$25-40.

To sign up or get more information on the classes, call the Red Cross at DSN 467-2136 or CIV 09802-83-2136.

PWOC meetings announced

■ The Katterbach Protestant Women of the Chapel meets every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Katterbach Chapel Fellowship Hall. The group is working on five studies that have just started.

People who can’t attend PWOC during the day can also attend meetings every Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. in the Triple Classroom at the Katterbach Chapel.

For more on the group, call Jenny Abbott at CIV 0980-295-3117 or e-mail her at wjabbott@gmail.com. Childcare is provided.

■ The Illesheim PWOC meets every Tuesday from 9:15-11:30 a.m. at the Illesheim Chapel. The group has three studies it is working on. Childcare if available for children infants-4 years old, and there will also be a potluck brunch.

The Illesheim PWOC is also sponsoring a community-wide yard sale Oct. 19 from noon to 4 p.m. and Oct. 20 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, call Iris Heeter at CIV 09841-682-746.

Looking news

■ Bleidorn Library hosts a monthly book club discussion group and it is looking for more members. Books and the schedule of meeting dates are available at the main desk at the Bleidorn Library.

For more information, call the library at DSN 468-1740 or CIV 0981-183-1740.

■ The Illesheim Library is changing its hours to be open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays now through Nov. 1. For more information, call the library at DSN 467-4675 or CIV 09841-83-4675.

Recycling center hours

The manned recycling center in Bleidorn Housing Area is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is closed on German holidays.

For more on the center, call DSN 468-7916 or CIV 0981-183-916.

Bamberg Briefs

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage

Hispanic Heritage month is celebrated through Oct. 15. The community is invited to attend a Hispanic Heritage month celebration on Oct. 10 from 11:30 to 1 p.m. at the Warner Club. Guest speaker will be Lt. Col. Ronald E. Pacheco Jr., 391st CSSB, Commander. Enjoy food sampling music and singing. For more information contact Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Freeman at DSN 469-8624 or Sgt. 1st Class Ishmael Asare DSN 469-9431.

Join a book club today!

The Bamberg community Library has a variety of book clubs for readers of all ages including: a Book Club for Mums, Young Adults, Adults, Animee Club, Ya Ya Club, and Junie B. Jones Book Club. For more information inquire at the Library at DSN 469-1740.

Commander open-door hours

The Garrison Commander’s open door hours are held every Monday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in Bldg. 7089, room 308. If you have any questions or concerns, please address them with the garrison

commander during this time. For more information call DSN 469-1500.

Customs office relocates

The Bamberg U.S. Forces Customs-Europe offices are now located in the MP Building (Bldg. 7011) Rooms 124 and 125. Hours of operation will continue to be Mon. through Fri. from 8 a.m. to noon and from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. For more information call DSN 469-7460.

Freedom Fitness Facility closed this weekend

The Freedom Fitness Facility will be closed for deep cleaning Friday through Monday and will reopen on Tuesday at 5:30 a.m.

CIF closed Oct. 15 - 19

The USAG Bamberg Central Issue Facility will be closed for mandatory annual inventory Oct. 15 – 19. For more information contact Mr. Clifford Leach, CIF Manager at DSN 469-8544 / 8354.

Community Bank prepares for renovations

Community Bank will temporarily move into modular buildings while the bank undergoes extensive interior renovations and remodeling. The bank will be closed Oct. 9 and 10 for the move. Regular business hours will resume on Oct. 11 from the temporary buildings and will remain the same during the renovation. One ATM will be placed in front of the entrance to the Main Exchange and will be active starting Oct. 9. Contact Melanie Cepe or Bill Moderhak at CIV 0951-37061 or DSN 469-8778 for more information.

Warner Club still open

Pardon our dust! The Warner Club is open for business during the ongoing exterior and roof renovations. Check out their Monday night buffets from 5 to 8 p.m. and XXL Sunday Breakfasts offered the first and third Sunday of every month. Call CIV 0951-300-7596 for reservations.

HHC 16th SB FRG meets Oct. 11 for next meeting

The HHC 16th Sustainment Brigade family readiness group meets the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at Preston Hall. The next meeting will be Oct 11. For more information contact SSG Bradley at DSN 469-7150. Additional meeting dates are Nov. 8 and Dec. 13.

Explore Bamberg with PEP

Are you new to USAG Bamberg? Get to know the garrison and the town of Bamberg by touring the city with the ACS PEP program. Learn how to use the public transportation system, how to shop and visit the Bamberg Klinikum. Free childcare is provided (space is limited). PEP is free and takes place Oct. 15-19, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Call Bamberg ACS at CIV 0951-300-7777 for details.

“Painting With Light” Art Exhibit at CAC on Oct. 19

Learn all about Hungary through the eyes of artist and photographer, Ilona Wellmann, at a Hungarian cultural event Oct. 19 at 6 p.m. at the Community Activity Center. Meet the artist, enjoy culinary samples, and listen to live music while experiencing the spirit of Hungary. The artist’s photos and Hungarian Halas lace will be available for purchase until Nov. 4. Halas Lace making demonstrations will be at the CAC Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Oct. 19 from 2 to 9 p.m.

ACAP 3-day workshop set

Bamberg ACAP is offering a 3-Day job assistance workshop for separating and retiring service members and their families on Oct. 16 and 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Oct. 18 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. All participants must complete pre-separation counseling prior to enrolling in this course. The 3-Day DOL / Tap Workshop will be offered again Dec. 11-13. For more information contact Olivia Whittier at DSN 469-8925.

Join women’s support group

Stressed? A women’s support group can help you adjust, cope and manage your stress. Stop by Social Work Services, Bldg. 7253, on Wednesdays from 1 to 2:15 p.m. For more information call DSN 469-7793.

ODR October trips

Bamberg’s ODR October trips are on sale now! Take the famous Tour Under Bamberg Oct. 11 at 5 p.m. Throw on some sturdy shoes and join a Day-long

Hike in Little Swiss Oct. 13. Need a little pampering? Join the SPA Day Trip to Bad Staffelstein Oct. 17. Josh will get you peddling through the countryside on a 30k Mountain Bike Trip Oct. 20. Visit the historic sites of Wuerzburg Oct. 27. Trips fill up quickly, so reserve your seat now. Contact the CAC for more information at DSN 469-8659.

CID looking for leads

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is offering a reward of \$10,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the theft of Night Vision Devices from the Supply & Support Activities facility, Bamberg, Germany. Between Aug. 16 and Aug. 21, person(s) unknown gained access to the Bamberg SSA and stole several different types of Night Vision Devices. The payout of cash rewards to military/federal employees for information leading to a conviction is contingent upon their actions regarding the information provided.

Anyone with information regarding this incident should contact the Bamberg CID office at DSN 469-7776 or the Bamberg Military Police at DSN 469-7770/8700.

Red Ribbon Week Oct. 22 -26

Red Ribbon Week will kick-off for the USAG Bamberg community on Mon. Oct. 22 with a Soldier and civilian 5K fun run starting at 6:30 a.m. at the Freedom Fitness Facility. The entire community is invited to run with our Soldiers, the ROTC and the Bamberg High School cross country team in support of the campaign. Get involved in the week-long events and take the opportunity to be visible and vocal in your desire to help create a drug-free community. For more information about the Red Ribbon Week campaign or treatment and prevention resources contact Linda Riddle, ASACS Counselor at CIV 0951-303-103.

MWR deployment specials

Special offers are available for family members who are affected by deployment at the Whispering Pines Golf Course, the Bowling Center, on tickets to Stable Theater productions, Arts and Crafts classes and more. Child and Youth Services offer 10 hours of free child care per month and extended hours at the Middle School Teen Center. Contact Juergen Hagemann at CIV 0951-300-7885 or CYS Central Registration at CIV 0951-300-8660 for details.

USAREUR Band and Chorus performs Oct. 24

The U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus will be performing a Fall Concert at the Bamberg Konzert and Kongresshalle Oct. 24 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available for 9.50 Euro for all military, civilian and retirees with valid Military ID card. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the BVD-Kartenservice or Infothek in the Rathaus in the Maxplatz. For more information contact the Bamberg Public Affairs Office at DSN 469-2000.

Attend Pumpkin Festival

Pick your pumpkin from the pumpkin patch at the Pumpkin Festival Oct. 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pre-sale pumpkins, \$3 each or \$4 at the door. Kids can take part in a pumpkin dash starting at 10 a.m. Find a pumpkin marked with a gold star and keep what you find! Chili cook-off, jumpy castle, pumpkin dessert contest, kindergarten fall picture contest and 1st -6th grade fall poem contest. The festival takes place on the front lawn of the 4-319th HQ building behind the garrison command Bldg. Inclement weather location is BES gym. To purchase tickets or for more information contact pumpkin4319th@yahoo.com.

Jam Session at Stable Theater

Looking for a place to play your original music, jam with other musicians or just hear some live tunes? Come hang out Oct. 12 at 8 p.m., on stage or off, in a relaxed open mic atmosphere. Instruments will be provided but you are welcome to bring your own. For more information call CIV 0951-300-8647.

Trick-or-Treat hours

The trick-or-treat hours for U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg Warner Barracks will be Oct. 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. For a garrison wide list of Halloween and Harvest Fest events pick up a copy of the October MWR guide available at any MWR facility or download at www.bamberg.army.mil.

Schweinfurt Briefs

Shoppette hours change

The Leighton Shoppette operating hours will change effective Saturday. Hours of operation will be 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information call DSN 350-6706 or CIV 0931-705-8310.

Attend update forums

The next Community Update Forums will be held in the Schweinfurt Elementary School gym Tuesday at 6 p.m. and at the Leighton Community Activities Center Oct. 10 at 6 p.m. The community is invited and encouraged to attend.

SAEDA training offered

The community is invited to attend the Subversion and Espionage Directed Against the U.S. Army training session at the Ledward Theater tomorrow at 9 a.m. for local nationals and 10:15 a.m. for U.S. citizens.

ACS offers reunion briefings

Join Army Community Services for its reunion briefings. Attend the class: “Reunion and Children” tomorrow from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. or Tuesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m.; “Happiness after Homecoming” Oct. 10 from 6-7:30 p.m. or Oct. 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and “Spouse Battlemind Training” Oct. 11 from 11:30 a.m. to 1p.m. All sessions take place in the ACS classroom, Bldg. 242, Ledward Barracks. For more information, call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

PTSA flea market held

The community is invited to attend the Schweinfurt Middle School Parent Teacher Student Association flea market at the school gym Oct. 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tables are available for those interested in selling. For more information, call CIV 09721-966815.

Take trip to Dresden

Join MWR for a free bus ride this fall and winter to various popular locations. Sign up to go to Dresden and sight see on Saturday. Bus departs Bldg. 5 on Leighton Barracks at 5 a.m. and Schweinfurt Volksfestplatz at 6:45 a.m. Dresden is a city of great art and history; don’t miss this chance to take it in. For more information, or to sign up, call DSN 350-6305 or CIV 0931-889-6305.

B.O.S.S. hosts events

■ “I Can Do It” Success Series: Come to the Conn Auto Skills Center, Bldg. 49, Oct. 17 at 1 p.m. for welding instruction.

■ “This One Is For You” programs and classes: Effects of Alcohol and Drug Use, Communication, and Cleaning up Your Debt Oct. 18 at the Finney Fitness Center on Conn Barracks beginning at 3 p.m.

For more information call DSN 354-6270 or CIV 09721-966270.

Craft Studio hosts classes

■ The Ledward Barracks Crafts Studio is offering a Patchwork Quilting Class at the Craft Studio on Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m. All materials are available at the Studio. The cost is \$35 plus materials for six sessions.

■ The Ledward Barracks Craft Studio is offering Hand Weaving on the Loom classes at the Craft Studio on Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. The cost is \$35 plus materials for six sessions.

For more information, call DSN 354-6903 or CIV 09721-966903.

Kids’ classes offered

Skies Unlimited is offering ballet classes. The cost is \$35 per month for one class per week or \$60 per month for two classes per week. To register, call DSN 354-6460 or CIV 09721-966460.

Scrap booking for the young

ACS offers a scrap booking class for 12 to 18-year-olds at the Schweinfurt Teen Center Tuesday from 3:30 to 5 p.m. and for 6 to 12-year-old children Oct. 12 at the Leighton CDC/SAS building from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. For either session, call CIV 09721-96-6933 or CIV 0931-889-7103.

Fitness instructors needed

USAG Schweinfurt is looking for contract fitness instructors for spinning, Pilates, yoga, kickboxing, body sculpting, step aerobics and more. For more information, call DSN 354-6264 or CIV 09721-96-6264.

Bruges...

*Visit the
Belgian
city known
for its
chocolate,
lace,
beer*



Photos courtesy of the City of Bruges Photo Department

Taking a relaxing ride along the Belgian canals is a perfect way to see the sites of the city of Bruges.

by **ALICE ADLER**
Special to the Bavarian News

The tiny city of Bruges, Belgium, is an oft overlooked jewel of Europe. Small, friendly, beautiful, and charming, Bruges should be a must-see on everyone’s lists. This incredible town is so beautiful, in fact, that the entire city center has been named a UNESCO World Heritage site. In the Middle Ages, the trading town of Bruges was one of the wealthiest cities in Europe. It survived the invading and conquering armies of many wars and is now renowned for the scenic tranquility it offers its visitors. The architecture of Bruges still harkens back to days of yore; visitors can easily get lost in its network of winding streets lined with beautiful buildings. There are a few different ways to explore the corners and streets of Bruges. Like many

cities in the low countries, Bruges is filled with canals. The entire city is actually ringed by a large canal. Take one of the many open-topped boat tours through the city to get a good look at the fairytale-like gabled buildings. Another way to see the city is on a romantic horse and carriage ride through the cobblestone streets. But perhaps the best way to see Bruges is on foot. Get lost in the winding streets and find unexpected treasures and details – these are the best parts of the city. Bruges’ main market square is the heart of the city. Restaurants, stores, and magnificent buildings crowd their way around the large open square. Climb the 366 steps to the top of the towering belfry for an unparalleled view of the red rooftops. This 13th century structure contains a 47-bell carillon that rings every quarter hour. Other sites in the market square include the ornate Gothic Town Hall, the Palace of the

Liberty of Bruges, and the Basilica of the Holy Blood. The tiny city of Bruges boasts no less than six museums. Everything from fine art and furniture to lace and diamonds is on display in one of Bruges’ many museums. Bruges is also a city full of ornate churches. A visitor could easily spend his weekend only visiting the houses of worship. A visit to the Church of Our Lady holds a special surprise. A Madonna and Child statue by Michelangelo is on display here – the only one of his works to leave Italy during his lifetime. Take a walk around the city in the park where the city walls once stood. During the 14th century, Bruges’ wall had nine fortified gates. Four still remain and can be visited, but be sure to watch out for the traffic that swirls around them. In addition to the gates, the outer ring boasts four picturesque windmills, some of which are still in use.

No vacation is complete without a little shopping, and Bruges has plenty to offer. World famous Belgian lace is a popular item in Bruges and many stores offer a wide selection. Note that handmade lace is more expensive, and usually more finely woven, than machine-made lace. Tapestries are also popular souvenirs. On the culinary side, beer and chocolate are wise choices. Creamy, smooth Belgian chocolates make a perfect gift – or a perfect lunch! Tiny Belgium hosts as many as 1,000 different breweries, and many of these beers cannot be purchased outside of the country. Various stores offer a wide variety of Belgian beers, as well as the highly specialized glasses to drink them from. Whether wandering the winding streets, cruising the placid canals, or shopping in the charming stores and dining in the variety of restaurants, make scenic Bruges a stop on your European tour.

The churches of Bruges contain elaborate design, and there are many such churches in the area. The Church of Our Lady in particular is a must-see since it holds the only work of Michelangelo’s that left Italy during his lifetime.



Belgian lace is handmade, which makes it much more expensive, but it is more finely woven than any machine-made lace. Lace-making has become an important Belgian tourism industry, so a wide selection is generally available and makes a very popular gift.

C Co., 5-158th Aviation returns home

Story and photos by
RONALD H. TOLAND Jr.
Bavarian News

Tears of joy were the order of the day when more than 100 Soldiers of C Co. of the 5-158th General Support Aviation Battalion returned home Sept. 21 at Katterbach after a year in Iraq. Soldiers from the air ambulance unit returned home to hugs, kisses, handshakes, tearful family reunions, and pats on the back after a year in Iraq, saving wounded people in the war zone while miraculously suffering no casualties themselves.

The troops arrived at the hanger via five busses and lined up in formation before marching into the hangar to the delight of waiting Family members and friends.

Family members Veit and Brigitte Burger were ecstatic over their first glance of their loved ones and eager for more to come.

“We are really excited about his return,” said Veit about his son-in-law Capt. Mark Schilling, as his wife chimed in, “and definitely nervous.”

After releasing the Soldiers to the eager arms of their Families, Company Commander Maj. Robert Kneeland talked about the mission in Iraq.

“We were the Army MEDEVAC Company tasked to support the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, which is the headquarters for the Multi-National Forces West in western Iraq,” he said. “It was a unique set-up. Our support and operational control came through the Marines, who treated us like one of their own Marine squadrons.”

While in Iraq, the unit covered most of the Anbar Province—from Fallujah west to the Syrian and Jordanian borders, flying 15 Blackhawk Helicopters dispersed over four locations.

The unit flew more than 5,000 hours in support of that mission and evacuated more than 2,000 patients, 500 of which were surgical urgent.

“These are pretty substantial statistics resulting in a very successful deployment,” Kneeland said. “We did fly in some hazardous areas, but the flankers did not hesitate to do what they are trained to do; they were just tremendous.

“We managed to bring everybody back, without any casualties of our own during the course of the year, even with some dicey times during some flight operation occasions.”

The commander added that safety is huge for a year-long deployment.

“The task is to avoid settling into and avoiding habits of routine and making those difficult choices to stave off complacency—staying alert, not getting comfortable with your area of operation is critical to our success, and staying up to date with the latest intelligence, which the Marines provided for us.”

He added that another important aspect is communication with loved ones.

“The telephone was available as well as video conferencing, but e-mail was the primary means of communications back home,” Kneeland said. “It is so important to call back home to know what is going on—the kids in school, the little things you miss out on—and to be a daily part of the Family routine is really important to the

troops. It is certainly a huge morale booster.”

After a year of saving lives, sacrificing for their country, and being away from their loved ones, Kneeland said it’s time for the Soldiers to spend some time at home.

“Being back home here in Germany, reintegration and reorienting back to the community and with Families, and picking up the peacetime mission back here in Germany—those are our priorities.”

“We have block leave coming up for a month so we’ll get some R&R there, then we are back to work with property inventories and accountability, and then start flight training again,” he said.

The day after their arrival home, the Soldiers began the Army’s seven-day reintegration program—consisting of half-day schedules to help ease them back into everyday life at the garrison. Then the Soldiers get some R&R.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Hanz Welo and his wife, Rebecca, along with their two dogs, Tyson and Maggie, have plans for that R&R.

“My Family is coming here from the U.S. for Thanksgiving, so that is our closest plan,” he said. “Then take some R&R with my wife—that kind of thing.”



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Hanz Welo reunites with his wife, Rebecca, and dogs, Tyson and Maggie, Sept. 21 at Katterbach Kaserne after spending a year in Iraq with his air ambulance unit.

Bundeswehr rolls through Storck Barracks



German army air defense artillery tanks get ready to head out after being unloaded at Barracks railhead in Illesheim Sept. 15.

Story and photo by
JIM HUGHES
Bavarian News

A German army unit unloaded 18 tanks along with personnel and equipment and rolled them through Storck Barracks Sept. 15 en-route to an exercise south of Wurzburg.

The unit, whose name is almost as long as the line of tanks it drove through the installation—Panzerflugabwehrkanonenbattalion 12—asked to use the Storck Barracks railroad because it was the only one that suited their needs, said Oberstleutnant Nikolaus Landsteiner, commander of the unit.

“Everything went perfect. We received the green light on our first query,” he said. “We couldn’t have asked for a better place or for better partners to do our rail load ops. The cooperation was straight-forward and non-bureaucratic—that’s rare for us.”

The feeling was mutual from the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach side,

said Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Tammy S. McKenna.

“They’re part of NATO and training up to go to Afghanistan, so this was a good opportunity for us to work together and show our support,” she said.

Kevin Smith, director of the Illesheim Area Support Team, said working the German army rail operation took a lot of coordination and caused some traffic challenges on the installation, but all-in-all went very well.

“We’ve done it a lot so it’s more like a checklist right down the line—we’ve got it down to an art.”

But the operation is usually done with U.S. Army units—not the Bundeswehr who surprised many on the installation with how quickly they unloaded the tanks.

“Everything went perfectly. The German army is extremely well trained and they were able to offload their battalion of tanks within the hour,” Smith said. “I’ve been the AST

manager here and for 1st Armored Division and it would’ve taken us two and a half hours. Not because we’re slow, but because we have extra safety requirements and procedures we have to do.”

Smith said that there were no safety risks taken by the German army.

“Their procedures are just different than ours,” he explained. “They were extremely efficient and quick—as we are—but we just throw a few other procedures in there.”

The German army will be making their way back to their home base during the exercise, so they won’t be loading the tanks back up in Illesheim, Landsteiner said.

But the installation welcomes the opportunity to help the Bundeswehr in the future.

“We would absolutely welcome future requests,” Smith said. “Lt. Col. McKenna already extended the invitation for any time and I stand ready to meet that mission.”



Garrison Spotlight



Robert Agard, Katterbach’s Community Mail Room 454 supervisor.

Agard defines his customer service philosophy as ‘old school.’ “Get the mission done and then party,” he said. “We cannot party here in the mailroom, but we do get the mail out daily. That is what it’s all about—making sure the customers get their mail.” He added that he and his staff “treat everyone with respect and empathize with their needs. I like to think that is what good customer service is all about.”

Wendy Lloyd, spouse of Spc. Shaun Lloyd of the 2nd Military Intelligence Battalion and one of Agard’s satisfied customers, was overwhelmed with the service she received from one of Agard’s staff when she had seven parcels to pick up. “It was raining, late in the day, and I had my 5-year-old son with me. One of the mailroom staff kindly loaded up my boxes in a cart, wheeled them to my car, and even packed them in my car for me. That was very helpful and I would just like to say a formal thank you. It made my day to have that act of kindness given to me. Keep up the good work!”

Agard said that is the norm. “All of my staff provides that type of service to all our customers. It is not just me—it could have been anyone of us.”



Photo by Jim Hughes

To the rescue

German emergency response personnel talk over the actions they should take during a helicopter accident response exercise Sept. 13 at the Oberdachstetten Training Range between Ansbach and Illesheim. The 12th Combat Aviation Brigade put on the exercise to test host nation, garrison, and its own responders and systems to ensure all involved know what to do in case an aircraft ever goes down in this area.

The CAB invited more than 50 host nation responders and gave them hands-on, instructional and video training on Storck Barracks before having them respond to the scenario at the training range. “They left tonight’s training with the knowledge and the confidence that should this happen they will be able to respond in the proper fashion and help to save the life of a pilot,” said Lt. Col. Guy Zero, 12th CAB rear detachment commander.

Achtung shoppers! Annual bazaar set Oct. 19-21



Chief Warrant Officer Steven Conway, Bravo Company of the 5-158th Aviation, shops with his son, Elijah, wife Natasha, at last year's bazaar.

Story and photos by JIM HUGHES
Bavarian News

The Ansbach Spouses and Civilians Club along with Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host the community's Fall Harvest Bazaar Oct. 19-21 in Hangar 2 on Katterbach Kaserne.

Featuring more than 50 vendors from countries throughout Europe, the bazaar gives community members a chance to browse and purchase goods from countries like Belgium, England, Russia, Poland, and Italy, said Heather Stoner, publicity chairperson for the club and the bazaar.

"It's a great way to see products from all over Europe without having to travel so far," she said. "And keep in mind the money comes back to the club and then back into the community."

The money is funneled back into the community in the form of grants to agencies, programs, and organizations and also scholarships, said Stoner.

In 2006, the \$14,000-plus profit the club made on the bazaar benefited community projects like Club Beyond, People Encouraging Program for newcomers, the Bleidorn Library, high schools clubs, and military units—plus \$6,500 went into scholarships for community spouses and students.

Stoner said she and plenty of others in the community enjoy going to bazaars, but the one in Ansbach is special.

"You always get more excited when it's the bazaar in your community, and probably spend a little more because you know the money will be put back into the community," she said. "And this is a great way to start off your Christmas shopping—to find that unique gift for someone back home or for yourself."

Along with the European vendors, spouses from within the community will sell their handcrafted items like quilts, sterling silver jewelry made with Swarovski crystals, hair bows, headbands, picture frames, cards, and beaded bracelets.

The event kicks off with an opening ceremony at 2:45 p.m. Oct. 19 with volunteers helping out with the event getting first shot at the shopping from then until 4 p.m. when the bazaar officially opens.

The event runs 4-8 p.m. on Oct. 19; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Oct. 20; and noon to 5 p.m. on Oct. 21.

AFN Franconia will do a live radio broadcast from the event from 2-6 p.m. Oct. 19, complete with a visit from the ever-popular AFN Eagle.

And from 2-4 p.m., AFN will shoot what are known as "Hi Honey's!" to be sent downrange.

Basically, families from the various companies with Soldiers deployed can put together giant banners and tape a short message that is sent downrange for deployed Soldiers' viewing pleasure.

To set up a "Hi Honey!" session, contact Veronica Martin, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade family readiness, at DSN 467-3548 or CIV 09802-83-3548.

The bazaar will also feature a chance to get freebies—vendors donate items in their inventory to raffle sessions. Raffle tickets will be available at the bazaar, as will food and beverage sales.

Stoner said the bazaar is stroller-friendly and is designed for the entire family. The bazaar is open to U.S. or NATO forces ID cardholders, and purchases can be made with cash, checks, MasterCard, or Visa. Pets are not allowed.

People who would like to help out with the bazaar and get a head start on the shopping Friday can sign on to volunteer for a four-hour shift by e-mailing Jackie Crogan at jackie.crogan@us.army.mil.

Community members can also get the early shopping benefit by donating five dozen baked goods.

To join the ASCC or just find out more about the club, e-mail asccmember@yahoo.com.

Katterbach club hosts very own 'Amazing Race'

Story and photos by RONALD H. TOLAND Jr.
Bavarian News

Some people might call eating worms and mystery meat gross.

Angie Rodesky calls it community bonding.

Rodesky is a Ansbach Spouses and Civilians Club member who helped create and organize a local version of the hit television show "Amazing Race," putting about 50 of her fellow community members through the challenging paces at Katterbach Sept. 20.

"This is a first for this community," said Rodesky. "It has taken me over six months, secretly, to put this all together and to obtain community participation, involvement, and cooperation."

But it was worth it. "The support has been just fabulous from the entire community—from the commissary, Outdoor Recreation, AFN, Soldiers and on and on."

The three-hour event began in the early morning at the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade landing pad gate.

"We had over 20 teams participating in the event, with each team consisting of two members in five heats," Rodesky said. "The idea

was to have them maneuver and navigate through obstacles, hurdles, roadblocks and detours," she said.

"There were different paths, 'roadblocks,' and detours set up throughout the Katterbach installation," said Rodesky, noting that the event was set up just like the 'Amazing Race' in the U.S. "Once the team completed an obstacle, they received their next clue destination."

One of the events, or roadblocks, consisted of choosing and eating live worms and eating a mystery meat.

"Another roadblock was stacking and climbing up on empty beer racks suspended in the air by a crane (feet cannot touch the floor) in one of the hangars," she said.

"Roadblocks, however, are completed by only one of the team members," said Rodesky, explaining that 'detours' are accomplished by both team members.

One detour was at the commissary where contestants had to do a "rip 'em, stack 'em, and tag 'em," task with products on pallets to prepare for the upcoming case lot sale.

"So the commissary got free labor for the day, which is another way the ASCC gives back to the Community," said Rodesky, laughing.

In order for teams to advance to the next position, she had volunteers

run and monitor roadblocks and detours and hand out clues for the next location and task.

"It pulls the community together," said Rodesky. "We show them that, yes, a lot of our husbands or spouses are gone and we are not just laying back and doing nothing. We are getting out and having fun. That is the whole idea behind this—to get out, have fun, build some camaraderie, and just have a good time."

Contestants, despite the none-too-happy looks on their faces upon discovering they had to eat worms, appear to have enjoyed the event.

Race winners Sara Hoff and Heather Stoner, 12th CAB spouses and ASCC members, said they participated to have fun and be outside.

"To support the spouses club, show our support for the whole community, to be out here as a team and to help raise money to put back into the community," Stoner said, giving Hoff credit for taking one for the team by unflinchingly downing a worm. "I was going to do it, but then I looked back and she already had it in her mouth."

"We decided to do this because we wanted to do something really big and fun for our members to kick off this month's events," said Rodesky.

"Members, or potential members, can come to any event they choose. Future events are planned for the day, some in the evening and some on weekends."

Rodesky explained that when current or potential members attend events, they became a part of a larger military Family.

She said participants can receive event calendars, get in contact with the membership coordinator, register and sign up, meet new people, have fun and become more involved with the community.

For more information on membership, contact Angie Rodesky at CIV 0171-489-0912.



Leigh Jackson, a 12th CAB Family readiness support assistant, and teammate Veronica Martin choose a worm to eat during the event.

Garrison Ansbach employee earns 2007 Recreation Career Award

by RONALD H. TOLAND Jr.
Bavarian News

"That's entertainment!" definitely applies to the efforts of the USAG Ansbach entertainment director who received recent recognition as the Installation Management Command-Europe's Recreation Career Award winner.

Victoria Hanrahan, whose involvement with Morale, Welfare and Recreation and specifically music, theatre and entertainment, dates back to 1985, said her work is all about Soldiers and Family members.

"It has been a lot of fun," she said, adding that "being open, willing to adapt, taking risks, and focusing on Soldiers, their Family members and their well being," helped her earn the career achievement award.

Casey Malloy, Ansbach MWR's chief of business and recreation, said the honor is well deserved.

"Vikki is the role model MWR employee," Malloy said. "She has a contagious dynamic personality, a get-it-done approach and keeps a high standard on everything she does. The Ansbach Community benefits greatly from having a Vikki Hanrahan on our team."

As entertainment director, Hanrahan runs the Terrace Playhouse on Bleidorn Housing Area and also works other programs like supporting Armed Forces Entertainment, United Service Organizations, and IMCOM-E shows that come to the community.

While Hanrahan received the honor from IMCOM-E, she said volunteers are the driving force behind her programs.

"My program would not exist without them

They support the program 110 percent," she said. "It is not so much me as it is the volunteers that work around me. I have been very lucky to draw people in that have a desire to be involved, and are willing to spend the time and energy it takes to be involved in a theatrical program or some of the other entertainment things we do."

Hanrahan's career began during her days as a college student, earning her degree in theatre.

"I have a bachelor's of arts in drama," she said. "My entire adult career has been working for the U.S. Army—since 1980, the majority of it being for MWR."

After working with the military in Nurnberg

as a theatre specialist, Hanrahan moved to her current position in Ansbach in 1995.

The main challenges she faces today are "deployments and time," she said. "We're dealing with it and we're working on some things that will hopefully benefit the community during this time period."

Her goal for the program is to stay connected with the community, she said.

"I do that by working in concert and partnering with various community organizations to tie the theatre program with joint projects to theirs," she said. "For example, we did a dinner theatre at the bowling alley.



Vikki Hanrahan, right, in character during a presentation of the "Pied Piper" in 2005 at the Terrace Playhouse. Hanrahan was recently honored by Installation Command-Europe with a career achievement award.

Being involved with the community also helps volunteer recruitment."

Hanrahan's efforts have taken her and her program around the world and earned the program some of the most prestigious awards a military theatre program can earn.

"I've been very lucky to be involved with some really good people, so it has been a really positive experience for me," she said. "We have been lucky through the years to receive recognition of a variety of awards, travel to an International play festival in Ireland, to the U.S. and our program received the Irving Berlin award in 2000—it's one of the most prestigious awards a program can get."

Mary Ann La Lave was one of the people Hanrahan cited as being lucky to work with. La Lave was also honored by IMCOM-E this year as one of its Friends of Recreation.

Hanrahan described La Lave as her right hand for several years.

"She put in roughly over 40 hours a week," she said. "Being a volunteer takes so much of their time and energy—they dedicate a lot of time and my volunteers generally make the program what it is. It is quite a commitment."

Hanrahan and the volunteers at the Terrace Playhouse kicked off this year's theatre season Sept. 28 with "An Evening of One-Act Plays," the opening show since 1995.

"We are really excited about this because there are five productions, all of them being directed by volunteers," Hanrahan states.

For complete details on "An Evening of One Act Plays," call Hanrahan at the Terrace Playhouse 468-7636 or 0981-183-636.

Soccer: Germany’s sport of choice

by MARTINA BIAS
Special to the Bavarian News

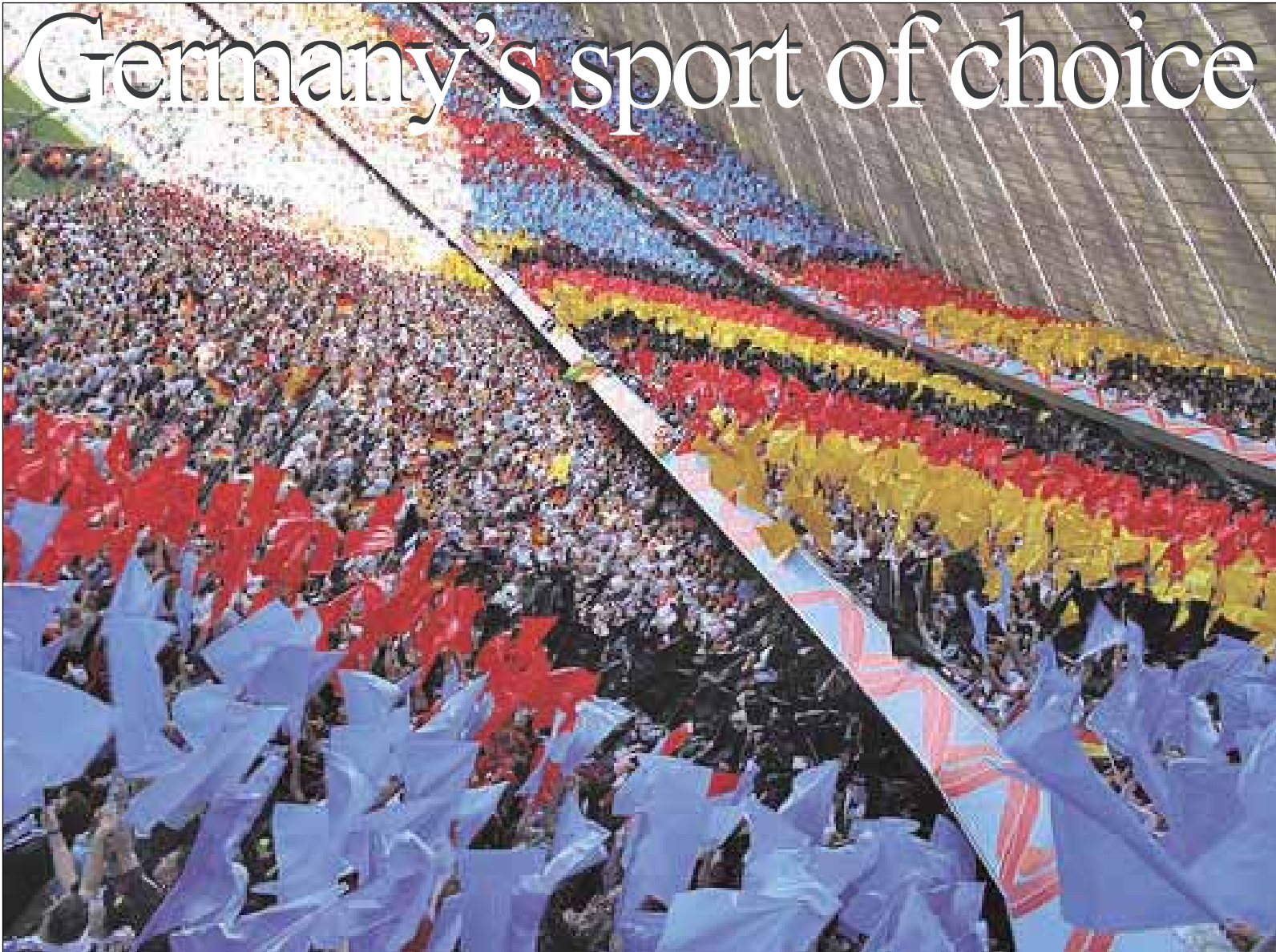
It is hard to miss all the excitement that grips Germany during soccer season. The countdowns to the big event were everywhere last summer. All of a sudden German flags were visible in increasing numbers, wearing shirts that look like athletic tops seemed to be the latest craze, and German grocery stores sold everything from cheese and sausage to candy and drinks in the shape of soccer balls. THE event of the early century happened right here! The World Cup in soccer was hosted by Germany last summer. The FIFA World Cup (often called the Football World Cup, Soccer World Cup or simply the World Cup) is the most important competition in international soccer and the world’s most representative team sport event. Organized by Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the sport’s governing body, the World Cup is contested by the men’s national soccer teams of FIFA member nations. The championship has been awarded every four years since the first tournament in 1930 (except in 1942 and 1946 due to World War II), however, it is more of an ongoing event as the qualifying rounds of the competition take place over the three years preceding the final rounds.

The finals

The final tournament phase (often called the “Finals”) involves 32 national teams competing over a four-week period in a previously nominated host nation. These games are the most widely-viewed sporting event in the world. In the 17 tournaments held, only seven nations have ever won the World Cup Finals. Brazil was the current holder prior to the 2006 tournament, as well as the most successful World Cup team, having won the tournament five times, while Germany and Italy follow with three titles each. The 2006 World Cup Finals were held in cities all over Germany for an entire month. Italy won its fourth title, while Germany finished in third place. To give you an idea of how seriously Germans take their soccer, let me point out that they gave their most loved soccer hero the honorary title of “emperor”. Emperor Franz played active soccer during the ‘70s, finishing his career in the U.S playing for “Cosmos New York”. He then returned to Germany to lead the German national team to a World Cup title without ever having obtained a coaching license (his official title was “team chief”). Currently, he is the president of the most famous and successful German soccer team “Bayern Muenchen” and was responsible for bringing the World Cup to Germany last year.

Bundesliga Begins

Germans are very fortunate that their favorite sport only takes a few weeks off each year. The season of the national league called “Bundesliga” starts in early August. All games of the “Hinrunde” (first round, where each of the 18 teams plays each of the other teams once) are done by early December.



Courtesy photo

The 2006 World Cup, which the city of Munich built a new stadium for, brought the German soccer craze to a pinnacle when the home team placed third overall.

At this time “Winterpause” – the winter break – (due to the weather) will last until some time in January. During this break from playing outdoors, several indoor-tournaments take place. The “Rueckrunde”(second round where each team played on the road in the Hinrunde will now be hosted at home and vise versa) lasts into the end of May or early June. During the summer weeks, competitions of national teams like the Worldcup (every four years), the European Cup (every four years, two years after the World Cup) and the Confedrate Cup (held two summers ago) take place. **Pokal Play** Bundesliga games are not the only high interest games that are played in soccer in Germany. Filling in the calendar some Saturdays are “Pokalspiele” (the Pokal is a competition that pins teams from various leagues against each other as well as against teams from the Bundesliga). Although the winner of this competition has always been a team from the top league, the reason this competition is always competitive and interesting is that many of times a “David” (small amateur regional team) has given a “Goliath” (internationally successful professional team) a hard time or even brought them down. To fulfill your soccer cravings during the

week, European competitions take place on some Tuesdays and Wednesdays. There is the UEFA –Cup, where all teams of Europe that placed fourth through sixth place in the top national league during the previous season play it out against each other, and of course there is the Champions League. The winner of this competition of all European teams from first through third place in their respective top league plays a final game against the champion of the American soccer world to be called the champion of the world. To be a famous soccer player playing for one of the prestiges German soccer clubs is many a young boy’s dream. To achieve this goal they start playing in local soccer clubs early in their lives. Almost every village has teams ranging in age from 5-6 years to “Alte Herren” (old gentleman), a year group starting around 30. One of our local teams even has a 63-year-old goal keeper. **Girls Soccer** Even girl soccer teams have mushroomed in recent years. During the current season, there are over 100 girl teams in competition in the Upper Palatine region alone. Some of the men even have to admit that the female soccer player’s skills can truly match those of the boys. They even point out that girls tend to be

less whiny and don’t try to deceive the referee by acting as much as their male counterparts. **Loyalty First** German soccer fans are very loyal. Many trek to each of their favorite teams’ games, decked out in the traditional Fan vest (a jeans vest appliquéed with the team’s emblem and other decorations in the team’s colors). Unfortunately, some of these loyal fans have made headlines as rowdy trouble makers, culminating in the fatal beating of a French policeman during the 1998 World Cup. However, these brutal individuals are the exception and should not be the standard all German fans should be judged by. Most soccer fans enjoy their favorite spectator sport at home. The Bundesliga games are covered live on the radio on Saturday afternoons and in recent years private pay-per-view TV channels have offered packages that allow you to view all games of your favorite team live. Most Germans, however, prize the privilege to watch their soccer games on free TV and there has been a big outcry every time the public networks have lamented that they could not afford to pay the high price tag anymore and cable channels threatened to snatch up the broadcast rights. Germans don’t like change, and the weekly and much beloved 6 p.m. soccer show on Saturdays has been a long standing tradition!

Zwiebelkuchen, Most wine a perfect pairing for fall

by MARTINA BIAS
Special to the Bavarian News

Zwiebelkuchen (onion tart) is a Swabian specialty that is very popular in the fall. It is commonly served with Most, the new sweet wine, but it is a great treat all year long. Zwiebelkuchen can be served as an appetizer, a snack, or accompany a nice bowl of soup. It is made from yeast dough that is topped with a savory onion and bacon mix. Most Germans would bake a large quantity in a jelly-roll pan, but you can also prepare it in a springform pan as directed below. This recipe would be wonderful prepared with Vidalia or another sweet onion. For a little variety, you may adapt this recipe to make a colorful Lauchkuchen (leek tart). I have listed the changes below. Most people would prefer to eat it slightly warm, but you may serve it either hot or cold. *Guten Appetit!*

Zwiebelkuchen

Crust:
2 cups flour
2/3 cup warm (110- 115 degree) milk
2 tsp. yeast
3 Tbs. unsalted butter, softened
pinch of salt
Filling:
4 medium onions, thinly sliced
4 slices bacon, chopped
½ cup sour cream
2 eggs
½ tsp. salt
½ Tbs. caraway seeds
Filling Lauchkuchen:
3 large leeks, thinly sliced and washed
4 slices bacon, chopped
1 ½ cups whipping cream
3 eggs
1 cup shredded cheese (for example: Emmentaler)
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper
1/8 tsp. nutmeg

Crust:
Measure flour into a bowl; make an indentation in the middle. Pour warm milk into indentation. Sprinkle yeast on top of milk and let sit for 10 minutes. Add butter and salt and mix together to form dough. Knead dough until all ingredients (especially the butter) are well distributed and dough is soft. Form dough into a ball and place in a greased bowl. Cover and let rise in a warm place for about 1 hour.
Onion Filling:
Meanwhile, sauté bacon in a large pan. Add onion slices and cook until translucent. Cool slightly. Mix sour cream, eggs, salt and caraway seeds with a wire whisk. Pour over onion mixture and mix well.
Leek Filling:
Sauté bacon in a large pan. Add leek slices. Cover and cook



This onion and bacon tart can be made in a Springform pan or in a jelly-roll pan (pictured), depending on how many servings are needed.

Courtesy photo

on low for about 10 minutes. Cool slightly. Mix whipping cream, eggs, cheese, salt, pepper and nutmeg with a wire whisk. Pour over leek mixture and mix well. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Roll out dough and line the bottom and halfway up the sides of a springform pan with it (you may double the whole recipe and use it to line a jelly roll pan). Add filling and distribute evenly. Bake for 20 to 30 minutes or until crust is golden brown and the filling is set. **Yield: 12-18 servings**

‘Hearts Apart’ bringing 173rd STB Family that much closer

Story and photo by
AMY L. BUGALA
Bavarian News

All eyes were on the skies as the families and friends of the 173rd Special Troops Battalion gathered in Memorial Park at Bamberg’s Warner Barracks for the “Hearts Apart” balloon release Sept. 23.

Thirteen white balloons, representing the fallen heroes of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, were released into the sky during a moment of silence followed by 400 yellow balloons to honor the deployed Soldiers of their battalion.

Sheltering their eyes from the late day sun, children stared up into the sky long past letting go, tracking their balloon and message to their mom or dad. Through the crowd one could hear occasional shouts: “That’s mine!” or “I can still see it!” and “Where do you think it will land?”

“In a child’s heart anything is possible,” says Debbie Milhorn, 173rd STB Family readiness group advisor, about the strength and meaning behind the first time event. “One of these balloons just might make it to Afghanistan and that belief can bring mom or dad closer to a child’s heart, even momentarily.”

Donna Shultze, FRG member and spouse, came up with the balloon release idea while watching a memorial service on television and

shared it with Milhorn. As the details came together, they both realized how powerful this could be for their STB Family and decided to make this the next event for the group.

Just now approaching the sixth month mark of a 15-month deployment, the balloon release is one of the many morale boosting events put together by the 173rd STB Family readiness group leaders.

“At the battalion level we come together every two to three months, but at the company level, groups meet at least once a month,” says Jessica Prudhomme, 173rd STB Family readiness staff advisor. “We’re 178 spouses strong here,” she adds.

Milhorn is sincere when she refers to the 173rd STB as a Family and believes that strength is in numbers. She says that opportunities to come together like this to support our Soldiers wouldn’t be possible without the help of the FRG leaders, volunteers and the rear detachment Soldiers. “Our Soldiers stand along side one another and so do we. With courage and strength we will get through the rest of this deployment together.”

Within minutes, the sea of yellow balloons flew higher eventually fading from sight..., their mission giving everyone a sense of hope, a moment to reflect and renewed strength to focus on the future.



Families and friends of the 173rd STB release yellow balloons in support of their Soldiers Sept. 23.

Chief of Chaplain: Staying in Germany the ‘right decision’

by JAMES FREDRICK
Bavarian News

Maj. Gen. Douglas L. Carver, U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains paid visit to Bamberg, Warner Barracks Sept. 6 during his first tour of duty stations since his July 12 appointment.

Carver, accompanied by Sgt. Maj. Tommy Marrero, Chief of Chaplains and regimental sergeant major, and Col. Donald Rutherford, U.S. Army Europe Command Chaplain, spent part of the morning visiting with unit level ministry teams, followed by a sit-down with family readiness group leaders, spouses and community members.

The general concluded his tour of Warner Barracks with a lunch at the dining facility here with senior leaders.

While meeting with spouses and community members at the chapel, Carver expressed his support and gratitude for those who had elected not to move stateside for the duration of their spouse’s deployment.

“I think you’ve made the right decision staying here while your spouse is deployed,”



Carver said, “Here, you have others in a similar situation.”

He described how heavy deployment cycles can often be hardest on families that live outside of typical military communities, such as the families attached to National Guard and Army Reserve units who don’t have that built in support system.

Carver fielded questions from family readiness group leaders and spouses who were concerned about Bamberg’s current vacancy in

“Here, you have others in a similar situation.”

Maj. Gen. Douglas L. Carver, U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains Sept. 6, when talking to family readiness group leaders about their decision to stay in country while their spouses are deployed.

the Family Life Chaplain position. Carver, with the assistance of USAREUR Command Chaplain Col. Donald Rutherford, explained that the Army is currently short 500 chaplains and that steps are being taken to not only increase chaplain corps numbers in the long term but to prioritize and effectively manage assets in the short term.

“Top priority, of course, is to forward units moving downrange,” said Carver.

Next in line are OCONUS locations like

Bamberg who have priority over stateside communities as an English speaking congregation may not be readily available. Due to heavy troop rotations, the candidates for the Bamberg position were diverted to units preparing for deployment.

Rutherford explained that Bamberg should have a Family Life Chaplain in the very near future. Chaplain Corps strains have also led to new strategies to fill rear detachment chaplain spots. Carver described new arrangements that have been made to guaranty a minimum of one rear detachment chaplain for every three deployed battalions within 90 days of the units moving down range.

Carver explained how the greatest concern for chaplains is not those who participate in community events and social or faith based groups, but rather those who may remain socially secluded due to the deployment of a spouse or being new to the post. He encouraged those in attendance to continue to be actively involved in the community and in particular to reach out to those who may seem isolated.

Welcome Back : Bamberg units return home after 15 months in Iraq



Photo by Cpt. James Price

No Place Like Home

A 38th Personnel Services Battalion Soldier is welcomed home by his wife and family on Sept. 14 at the Basics Building at Warner Barracks, Bamberg. Members of the 38th PSB spent 15 months deployed to Iraq.



Photo by Cpt. James Price

Daddy’s Girl

Daddy’s little girl refuses to let go after he finally returns home after a 15-month deployment in Iraq.



Photo by Krista Browing

A Warm Welcome

Spc. Bobby Green, 630th Military Police company, meets his 7-week-old daughter, Serenity Pearl, for the first time. Soldiers of the 630th MPs received a warm welcome home from family and friends Sept. 19.

173d spouses head for the hills, stay active with scenic getaway

Story and photos by
MONIQUE RYAN
Special to the Bavarian News

Nestled in the Austrian Alps is the small town of Leogang. The beautiful scenery reminds you of the rolling hills setting for the movie The Sound of Music.

Found on the www.eurorelais.com Web site, the Mauthof is a rental home that can accommodate up to 13 people. Six spouses of deployed 173d Soldiers assigned to the Brigade Support Battalion and Special Troops Battalion stationed in Bamberg, Germany, recently made the trip south.

Along with seven of their children, they took a well deserved break from the daily stress his family is staying active and well



The daughter of Lt. Col. James Ryan, 173d BSB, cools off in a river with family dog Chelsea.

to enjoy the change of scenery. As the first American visitors to this home, the traveling companions were pleased with the house and awed by its beautiful view.

“The view is breathtaking,” said Jenny Looman, wife of Spc. Jeremy Looman, B-Co. 173d BSB. “I just couldn’t believe that I was there.” Looman and her two children, Kyra and Halle, are undergoing their first deployment and have been stationed in Germany since February.

According to Nina Johnson, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Bruce Johnson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 173d BSB, being able to tell her husband all about the trip has made him feel more secure knowing that

taken care of. “Though he hates not being able to join us on these trips, knowing that we are doing okay allows him to focus on his mission downrange,” Johnson said.

Leogang is only a short distance from Salzburg and Berchtesgaden, home of the Eagle’s Nest, Adolf Hitler’s summer home. Both are worth a visit and Salzburg also offers a Sound of Music tour.

Berchtesgaden lures you with awesome food, great shopping, beautiful homes, a tour of the Eagle’s Nest, and a museum that gives visitors a glimpse into the town’s past. Leogang offers great skiing during the winter, and visitors can enjoy scenic walking and biking trails during the summer.

There are plenty of places to enjoy horseback riding featuring trails for novice to experienced riders. The people of Leogang are very friendly and most speak some English or they will find someone who does. As in most places in Austria, both children and dogs are welcome in almost all facilities in the area.

The 173d spouses have made a pact to continue to take weekend trips to keep them occupied, entertained,



Jenny Looman and daughter, family of Spc. Jeremy Looman, B-Co. 173d BSB, enjoy the hills of Austria.

and make the deployment of their loved ones go by faster.

For more information on the locations mentioned in this article, visit www.eurorelais.com, www.millinghof.at, www.onthesnow.com/AT-AT/712 and

www.berchtesgaden.com.

To get more information on the Sound of Music tour, visit the Web site: www.europeforvisitors.com/switzaustria/articles/salzburg_sound_of_music_tours.htm.

‘Practice Your Escape Plan’

Bamberg DES news release

It’s time for Fire Prevention Week. From Sunday through Oct. 13, the U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg Fire and Emergency Services are reminding all community members to “Practice Your Escape Plan.”

During this year’s fire safety campaign, firefighters and safety advocates will spread the word about the dangers of home fires and teaching Soldiers, Family members, civilians and contractors how to plan and practice escaping from their home or office in the event of a fire.

According to the latest National Fire Protection Association research, 3,030 people died in 2005 in home fires. That is roughly eight people every day. Being alerted to a fire and knowing what to do to escape from one are extremely important, yet only 23 percent of households have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan.

“Sometimes there are only seconds to escape, but there’s no question that having a plan in place that has been practiced saves precious time and makes survival more likely,” said Harald Doktorowski, USAG Bamberg, Chief F&ES. Fire Departments hope that Fire Prevention Week will prompt folks in our community to plan and practice their escape.”

Are you prepared for a fire?

Although it’s difficult to prepare for the unexpected, reviewing the information below and taking action based on it to plan for a fire is strongly recommended....and don’t forget to practice your escape plan during Fire Prevention Week!

- Ensure installed apartment smoke alarms are operative and tested monthly.
- Develop and practice a fire escape plan with everyone in your household that identifies two ways out of each room and establishes a family meeting place outside.

If you do not have two ways out of each room (e.g. Apartment windows are above the 1st floor or you are unable to leave your apartment), have what the firefighters call a passive escape plan.

- In case of fire, engage your passive escape plan by sealing all doors and vents with duct tape or preferably wet towels to prevent smoke from entering the room. Open a window at the top and bottom so fresh air can enter. Be ready to close the window immediately if it draws smoke into the room.
- Call the Fire Department (CIV 0951-300-117) and let them know that you are still inside the building.
- Wave a flashlight or light colored cloth at the window to let the fire department know where you are located.
- Alert a firefighter by making noise such as banging items together. Whistling or calling out. Stay calm.
- Remember to practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year.



Open for business

The Bamberg recycling center’s first customers walked through the gates with bags of recyclable materials in hand during the grand opening event Sept. 25.

These environmentally friendly students practiced their sorting skills, toured the new facility and received a chance to win a new bike. The new easily accessible facility is located on George Washington Loop, down the street from the Stable Theater and is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Photo by Amy L. Bugala



Photo by James Fredrick

Juergen Hagemann samples chili con carne made by Wilson De La Hoz during a Latino luncheon at the Bamberg community library Sept. 19. Hispanic Heritage Month runs through Oct. 15. To learn more, attend a Hispanic Heritage cultural event Oct. 10 at the Bamberg Warner Club from 11:30 am until 1 p.m.



Photo by Krista Browning

The 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion commander, Lt. Col. Ronald Pacheco, and Command Sgt. Maj. David Emerick attach streamers to the new battalion colors Sept. 14 at Summerall Field, Warner Barracks. The 191st Ordnance Battalion was redesignated as the 391st CSSB during a redesignation ceremony as part of the U.S. Army Europe’s overall transformation plan.

ACS classes help redeployed troops, Families deal with reunion issues

Story and photo by SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

“Reunion is sometimes worse than deployment. It’s more of an emotional roller coaster for some,” said Patricia Lamson, mobilization and deployment readiness program manager and teacher of the Spouse Battlemind Training.

Knowing what to expect when your Soldier comes home can help make reunions smoother and adjustments to Family life easier.

Army Community Services offers classes until mid-October on how to handle these changes when your deployed spouse returns home after a long absence. Classes include Happiness After the Homecoming, Spouse Battlemind Training, and Reunion and Children.

“It touched on things that I hadn’t thought about,” said Sunna Rebolledo, a 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment Family member, about the Spouse Battlemind Training.

The classes address things like the healthy balance of time between friends and spouse. During the deployment, spouses have formed bonds with their surrounding community and Soldiers have become bonded with fellow Soldiers. Sometimes it’s hard for either party to understand or even share their experiences because they are so vastly different, said Lamson.

“It’s important that everyone has the opportunity to share their deployment



experience when they feel comfortable, including the kids,” said Lamson.

According to Lamson, patience and understanding is essential in Family reunions. Spouses at home have had to run their households and make important decisions while Soldiers have had to be in charge of their guns, gear, and circumstances downrange.

“Both have high levels of control,” said

Lamson, and bringing the two together can be a challenge.

Adjusting to Family roles can be difficult as well. Because of their primary audiences for the last 15 months, “Soldiers can talk to Family like Soldiers and spouses can talk to Soldiers like kids,” said Lamson. Resuming roles in the Family takes time.

Along with redefining Family roles,

Patricia Lamson, mobilization and deployment readiness program manager at Army Community Services (ACS), teaches spouses what to expect when Soldiers come home in the Reunion and Children class Sept. 13. Join the next class tomorrow at 11:30 a.m. or Tuesday at 6 p.m., ACS classroom 23. More classes are scheduled until mid-October. Call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933 for more information.

respecting the sacrifices each person has made—mom, dad, kids— is essential. And everyone, Lamson said, should stay away from the game of, “my day was worse than your day.”

Because of each individual reaction to deployments and reunions, each ACS class addresses the importance of watching for signs of stress and how to recognize when outside help is needed for any member of the Family.

Overall, becoming educated on what to expect from your Soldier upon arriving home is key. Through these classes, ACS hopes to help strengthen spouses, increase resiliency, and make that initial hug and kiss at the welcome home ceremony last.



IMAGINATION: Ahmad AliNur and Christine Leota stretch their imaginations through sketching during the Youth & Teens Can Do It, Too! Success Series “Young Artist” class Sept. 12. This was the first of a series of ACS teen activities taking place through December. Join the teen scrapbooking event at the Schweinfurt Teen Center Tuesday from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Photo by Sandra Wilson

Garrison modifies waste removal, recycling centers expand hours

by KIMBERLY GEARHART
Bavarian News

After much review, certain changes regarding waste management have been enacted.

Residents in Yorktown will have their 120-liter trash containers, which are serviced weekly, replaced with 240-liter containers that are serviced every two weeks.

This money-saving initiative will help keep more money in the garrison community for family programs and improvements.

Brad Posey, the garrison’s SORT coordinator, noted that while it is important for all residents to recycle consistently and put only regular trash items in garbage containers, it becomes more important when

garbage is collected less frequently.

Also, in order to better support the community during redeployment, the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt recycling centers will be expanding service hours at all locations.

With these changes, it is hoped that the garrison recycling and trash issues may be resolved, and the hectic time of redeployment may be eased.

In addition to extending hours at the manned facilities, the Ledward Barracks facility near the east gate will be manned in an effort to assist Soldiers living on Ledward during the redeployment.

“A full time employee at the Ledward recycle center (can) receive all of the excess and see that it is recycled,” said Posey. He noted that

in previous years, units on Conn Barracks had an easier time handling recycling and waste during redeployment because of the manned center on Conn and the assistance facility employees offer in making sure that items are properly sorted. The Ledward center will be manned from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Saturday, through Dec. 15. The recycling center on Conn Barracks is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday through March 2008.

Likewise, Askren Manor’s facility will enjoy new hours during this timeframe, opening at 5 a.m. and closing at 10 p.m. Monday through Friday, and opening 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday.



The German K-9 unit uses highly trained dogs to inspect vehicles for various restricted items at USAG Schweinfurt gates. Inspections are conducted randomly to maintain safety on all military establishments.

Terrorists depend on your assistance

Story and photo by SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

“How much information can we get from this one person,” said Rita Reilly, anti-terrorism officer at U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt, about what goes on in the mind of a terrorist.

Terrorists use multiple “weak links,” or people who take no precautions when sharing possibly sensitive information.

By doing so, terrorists can put together a picture that will help them to do their planning.

Antiterrorism training is only part of the force protection plan in place to help keep Soldiers and Family members safe.

Individuals play an integral role in safeguarding information and knowing how to keep themselves and their Families out of harm’s way.

One way to increase personal security is getting to know your neighbors. Seen as a friendly gesture, it is also a way to have more than one set of eyes watching out for your home when you go on vacation.

“Germans are very good at neighborhood watch even though it’s not an established program here,” said Kenneth Kelly, force protection

specialist in Schweinfurt.

Blending into the environment is also key in keeping a low profile. Kelly recommends not hanging an American flag from your residence when living overseas.

Changing your car’s U.S. license plates to German plates is also a simple measure. And shredding personal information before disposal deters information gathering by an outside source. Learning the customs of the country you live in helps residents blend in as well.

“Stay alert, follow rules, and be aware,” said Jose Vazquez, also an anti-terrorism officer with the USAG Schweinfurt.

Apart from personal responsibility, the military performs constant security checks. Many of them are scheduled randomly to avoid predictability.

Military police regularly walk through base housing; barriers and hidden cameras are in numerous locations; and there is 24-hour surveillance around the perimeter of each military establishment.

“Security is not a convenience,” said Kelly, in response to those who have gotten irritated with the delays caused by vehicle inspections.

Safety takes extra time, but is well worth it, he said.

1-77 Soldiers fallen, but not forgotten

■ *Troops called the type of Soldiers every commander wants to serve with*

by MARK HEETER
Bavarian News

Two Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment were honored in a memorial ceremony at the Ledward Chapel Sept. 20. Sgt. Edward L. Brooks, 25, died Aug. 29 in Ramadi, Iraq, of wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device. Sgt. Kevin A. Gilbertson, 24, died Aug. 31 in Landstuhl, of wounds sustained in the same attack, which struck them as they conducted security and observation operations.

“Sgt. Brooks and Sgt. Gilbertson were the type of Soldiers every commander dreamed of serving with,” said Lt. Col. Miciotto Johnson, Task Force Steel Tiger commander, in remarks that Capt. Thomas McMurtrie conveyed to the standing-room-only crowd. “They will be remembered as friends, as fathers, and as husbands,” Johnson said, adding that he hoped they would above all be remembered as Soldiers. Gilbertson, a native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, joined the Army in 2001 and was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, before being transferred to Schweinfurt upon the deactivation of 2-63 AR. “I heard he was coming to Schweinfurt and I thought, man, here comes trouble, but I was happy,” said Sgt. William Fellows of Gilbertson,



Gilbertson

whom he had met when the two were battle buddies in basic training. “Gil always had my back at everything we did and I had his,” Fellows said in remarks that Spc. James Swafford relayed here at the ceremony. He recalled his memories with his old battle buddy and knew he was a “family guy.” Capt. Ian Lauer, the Company C commander, recalled wrestling in the day room with Gilbertson the night before the attack: “an event similar to a pit bull fighting a squirrel,” he said, through McMurtrie, to the chuckles of the attendees. “When hope was lost for me that night, I pulled the commander’s ace in the hole and ordered my Soldiers to come to my aid. I still say I won that fight,” he quipped. Brooks, from Dayton, Ohio, spent nearly all



Brooks

his seven years in the Army in Schweinfurt and was a prior recipient of the Purple Heart Medal. “If I could describe him to you in two words it would be ‘selfless service.’ Anyone who knew him would say that he went above the normal person to help anyone who needed anything,” said Spc. Michael Grace, in remarks that Swafford conveyed here today. “He didn’t need stripes to be considered a leader; he was born to lead,” Grace said. “I know he was very excited about being promoted and becoming a leader of men,” said 2nd Lt. Tom Nagelmeyer, in remarks presented by Sgt. Michael Ayrelan. Brooks was already considered a leader by the men with whom he served Nagelmeyer said. “I know other Soldiers in the platoon looked to him for guidance and leadership,” he said. Gilbertson is survived by his wife, Nina; sons, Nicholas and Timothy; mother, Keeley Peters; and father, Don Gilbertson. Brooks is survived by his wife, Ivana; daughter, Shantique; son, Shaquan; mother, Sterling Brooks; and father, Edward Smith.

SPUR RIDE



Courtesy photos

Seventy-two children rode in to earn their spurs at the Kids’ Spur Ride on Conn Barracks Sept. 8. The event, sponsored by the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, gave the Sky Soldiers’ children a chance to earn the coveted cavalry spurs. The event included an obstacle course, hand grenade course, physical training, the art of camouflage, tug-of-war, sand-bag relays, paint ball, and a trip through a weapons simulator. (Left) Nate O’Lear tries on a bit of camouflage. (Right) Kristen Kenworthy explores the tire obstacle.



Photos by Mark Heeter

Home, finally...

A formation of Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team walked through smoky mist upon returning from Iraq at a welcome home ceremony in Finney Fitness Center Sept. 15. (Left) Spc. Chris Clingerman, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment is greeted by his 2-year-old son, Liam, while wife, Tiffany, smiles broadly. (Right) Clingerman gets a welcome-home squeeze from wife, Tiffany.

Hohenfels Hurricanes dive into new season

by GARRY BARROWS

Bavarian News

The Hohenfels Hurricanes are a youth swimming team that has been around since 1991.

"The Hurricanes are the best sports organization in USAREUR due to the parental involvement plus the financial and time commitment," said assistant coach Beth Hoeh.

"It takes as many as 25 volunteers to put on a meet," said Hoeh. "That's part of the parents' time commitment."

Hoeh's pride and strong convictions about the swim team is partly due to the benefits the students receive on the team. She says the team is a recreational group and decidedly Family oriented, combining fun and fitness into a lifestyle.

It is a co-op educational program with boys and girls, ages 6-19, practicing and competing together and supporting one another.

"We don't keep track of team standings as much as we keep track of individual personal successes," Hoeh said.

The swim team is a member of the European Forces Swimming League, which was formed more than 30 years ago and has 17 member teams in Italy, Spain, England, Germany, and the Netherlands—all located at International, NATO, and American Forces school locations.

The season, which runs from August to February, will have 10 meets at which three to five teams will participate.

The Hurricanes practice at Kalmunz, Parsberg, and Berching, enjoying a special relationship with the people of each community

while the "home pool," where the team hosts their meets, is located in Neumarkt.

"It is just amazing how well the German people treat and encourage us considering the very restricted availability of the pools," said Gwen Gamble, the Hurricanes' president. "It's like they see themselves as part of our cheering section and they really support us."

In addition to being simply a lot of fun, swimming has many special benefits for children and Families.

"Put a child on a swim team and they will

improve their skills tremendously, better than lessons or recreational swimming," Hoeh explained. "What we have is a good group of encouraging adults who want to keep their children healthy and see them succeed."

Part of the Family benefits is the travel to several "away" locales throughout the year. Each year, the organization board, this year made up of Gamble, Barbara Larumbe, and Leigh Ann Taylor, along with coaches, select where the team will go to compete.

This year it was a Labor Day weekend meet



Photo by Leigh Ann Taylor

Hohenfels Hurricane team member Grant Gamble puts all of his effort into a freestyle race during last month's meet in Aviano, Italy.

Experienced Falcons taking their 'green' team members under wing

by SHANNON HILL

Bavarian News

Adrenaline and conditioning pushed the Vilseck High School Lady Falcons volleyball team during the season opening jamboree held at Rose Barrack's Hilltop Memorial Gym Sept. 15.

Attended by teams from Vilseck, Hohenfels, Ansbach, and Wuerzburg, the day-long event featured 30 informal games that lasted about 35 minutes each.

"Everyone was a little rusty, but they came around," said Falcon head coach and VHS Spanish teacher Louis Sanchez. "We need to work on setting the ball, and passing the ball to the setter so we can spike it."

The Falcons were Division 2 European champions last year. This year, the team is relatively "young," with only two returning varsity players and four freshman.

"The smooth play isn't the same," said senior team captain Chi-Kobi Murry, describing challenges the girls face. "We're still learning to trust that we'll back each other up...but we learn every day and always improve."

Sanchez said the more experienced players are taking the less experienced members under their wing.

"The (older) girls are helping out a lot," said Sanchez. "They talk to the rest of the girls and really bring them in together."

Anne Goha, new to the team after moving here this year from Wuerzburg, said she's looking

forward to playing "good games, having good hits, serves, and spikes."

This year's competition is scaled back because of the Army's decreased presence (due to transformation), and opinions differ on who will be the team's greatest adversary.

"Aviano," said Murry. "We've only ever beaten them one time, and that was in Europeans last year, so we want to do it again."

Sanchez disagreed, saying he thought that Weisbaden would be the biggest challenge, but that he "has some good, top-rated players, and they're playing well. We definitely have the potential to win again."

The biggest threat, according to Goho, will be themselves, because "we might think we're too good and get big heads. We have to remember that we can always lose."

The community is encouraged to attend the games.

"The energy that's generated at the games motivates the players," said Murry. "And it's good for the audience too, because we win our games."

The game times and locations are advertised on AFN and in the community e-newsletter.

"With the Stryker Brigade gone, we really need people to come to our games and support the girls," she said. "We want our students to feel appreciated for what they're doing."

Homecoming activities take place Oct. 13 and all the sports teams will have events taking place, so be sure to come out and support your local high school teams!



Photo by Paula Guzman

Lady Falcons' Anne Goha spikes the ball in an attempt to score one for Vilseck, but Bamberg's Tessa Cepe blocks Goha's attempt during the Sept. 15 volleyball jamboree at Hilltop Gym.

Basketball officials clinic set Oct. 15-19

IMCOM-E news release

Two veteran officials will be running a pair of basketball clinics for Installation Management Command-Europe in October.

Peter Webb and Ray McClure are conducting one clinic Oct. 9-13 in Schwetzingen, Germany, and another in Vicenza, Italy, Oct. 15-19.

Webb is a member of the National Federation of High School Hall of Fame and is the current commissioner for Maine Basketball.

McClure serves the American Basketball Association as a crew chief and rules interpreter for a staff of more than 400 officials in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

"If you want to learn basketball rules from two of the best in the business, plan on attending one of these two clinics," said Tom Hlavacek, a training specialist for IMCOM-Europe Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Participants will learn NCAA and National High School Federation rules – while studying points of emphasis, rule changes and floor work – before taking a written test and practical exam.

"We intend on having these top youth services, military community and high-school officials provide follow-up clinics at their installations," Hlavacek added.

For more information, call Hlavacek at DSN 379-6214, Tom Benson, Heidelberg Sports Office, at DSN 373-8032. In Italy, contact Chaz Ingram at DSN 634-7887.

4th degree black belt offering martial arts classes at Vilseck

Olden performs a sword maneuver during a weapons competition. He will instruct tang soo do classes at Vilseck. Register at CYS to begin. Olden has been featured in Black Belt Magazine, was the World Tang Soo Do Instructor of the Year, and was the winner of the German Tang Soo Do Championships.

Courtesy photo



Special to the Bavarian News

Traditional Korean Martial Arts classes are now available to the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr community.

Brian Olden, a 4th degree master black belt tang soo do instructor, recently moved here from Wuerzburg and is offering classes to children and adults.

Olden, who has been teaching classes in Wuerzburg since 1994, said there is a lot more to the martial arts than just learning how to fight.

"In traditional tang soo do, which I teach, we learn that through the martial arts we can become a better person," explained Olden. "Sure, we learn punching and kicking and how to defend ourselves, but children also develop self confidence, self-control, respect for others, and they learn the discipline to stick with something and finish it to the end."

"These lessons help children in all walks of life, especially school," he said.

Olden has been involved with the martial arts for more than 45 years, and has been teaching since he received his first black belt.

He has been featured in Black Belt Magazine, was the World Tang Soo Do Association Instructor of the Year, and was the two-time overall winner of the German Tang Soo Do Championships. He was also featured this year in the World Tang Soo Do Association Web site as "Master of the Month".

Olden will be teaching classes in Vilseck through CYS, so students must register there to participate.

Olden plans to offer women's self defense classes and classes for adults at a later time. For more information, contact Olden at bjolden07@yahoo.com.

**Are you participating in a sport that you'd like the Bavarian News to cover?
E-mail adriane.foss@eur.army.mil or call DSN 475-7113 today.**

Falcons shut out Wolves 56-0



The Falcons’ Jamal Grant catches air as he evades Wuerzburg players Sept. 22.

Photos by Paula Guzman

Vilseck turns around slipshod start to defeat Wuerzburg during non-conference game

byADRIANE FOSS
Editor

It’s not how you start, it’s how you end up! Those were the truest of sentiments Sept. 22 after the Vilseck High School Falcons got off to a penalty-laden sloppy start only to trample the Wuerzburg Wolves 56-0 .

Last month’s non-conference home game was not tallied against the season record but may be an indication of what the Falcons plan to serve up this year.

A fumble and penalties that took away two touchdowns left the Wolves with a precarious score of 7-0 at the end of the first quarter, thanks to a short touchdown pass from **Justin Ingram** to **Jamal Grant**.

“During the second quarter, we started to click and scored 28 more points leading at halftime 35-0,” said Head Coach Billy “Rat” Ratcliff. “We scored on touchdown runs by Jamal Grant and **Kawika Camanse** and two nice touchdown passes from Justin Ingram to **Josh Frank**,” he said.

At the beginning of the third quarter, **Ramon Ramirez** added a long touchdown run. The Falcons’ defense stopped Wuerzburg and forced them to punt, resulting in Josh Frank running back the whole way, notching Vilseck’s score to 49-0 at the end of the third quarter.

Most of the second half a “running clock” was used in accordance with what was at the time the Department of Defense Dependent Schools’ “mercy rule.”

The mercy rule restricted DoDDS coaches from reporting the full and correct score of games if the margin of victory was greater than 39 points. DoDDS rescinded the rule, and as of last weekend, full scores are now reported.

A final touchdown was scored by **Roberto Miranda** on a nice, short run up the middle to end the score at 56-0.

Ratcliff said the players and coaching staff did not take anything for granted, but “anything

less than a shutout was unacceptable to us and I planned on scoring 50 points against them.

“We are now 1-1 overall, but have not yet played an important conference game yet,” said Ratcliff. “We had a very balanced attack so we passed and ran the ball. All the above players played an important role in the offensive scoring, but the offensive line led by **Andrew Feazelle** and **Ben Barry** opened huge running lanes for the running backs and provided Ingram time to throw to our receivers.”

Despite having several sizeable players, the Wuerzburg Wolves appear to have lacked the speed and discipline, as evidenced by their 20 penalties, to pull off a win against the Falcons.

“However, our offense is set up to score lots of points and fast,” explained Ratcliff. “With an outstanding day by our defense, they kept providing the offense opportunities to score.”

The Falcons’ new kicker, **Kyle Krajcovic**, was able to connect on 8-8 extra point attempts this game.

“It’s been a long time since we had that kind of statistic,” said Ratcliff.

Wuerzburg’s drastically reduced population—a result of Army Transformation in Europe—did not aid the former Division II team in the matchup.

The unrecorded game, either way, was a

sweet victory for the Falcons who were in a similar situation two years ago with a smaller population and an even smaller student body to choose from.

Ratcliff said the Falcons’ defense and offense played off of each other, and “Andrew Feazelle had a great game at linebacker.

“**Demario Galbreath** created great pressure on their quarterback and made it hard for him to throw,” he said. “When he did get a pass off, we were right there. They only completed one pass at the end of the game. He threw two interceptions to **Shane Calder** and **J.R. Roque**.”

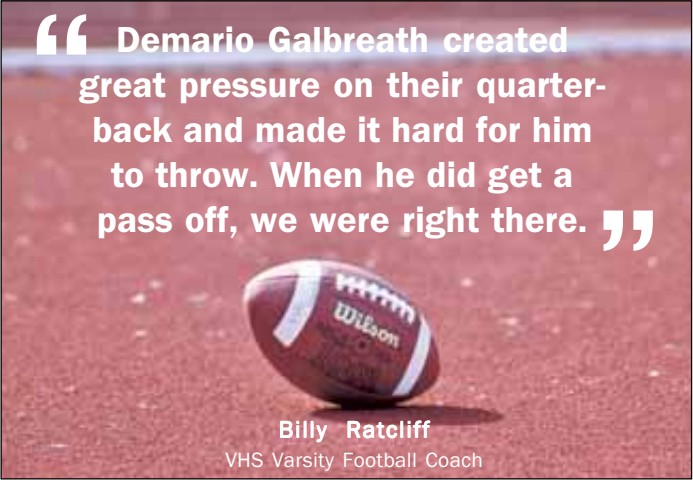
The Falcons now have their sights set on upsetting the mighty Ansbach Cougars, who toppled Division II South champion Naples two weeks ago, 38-9.

“We know it will be a dogfight, and a win by Ansbach will virtually guarantee them the Division II South No. 1 seed for the playoffs,” said Ratcliff. “We aren’t expected to win, which makes us the ‘dark horse,’ a role I relish!

Homecoming will take place Oct. 13 versus Aviano.

“We haven’t beaten them in three years,” he said, “and are looking forward to playing them again this season.”

The Falcons will play Naples, the 2006 D-II runner-up, in a conference game Saturday.



The Plan



Linebacker Andrew Feazelle takes a moment to try and beat the heat.

Vilseck High School’s varsity football coach, Coach Billy “Rat” Ratcliff gives last-minute instruction to Josh Frank during the Sept. 22 blowout against the visiting Wuerzburg Wolves.

Sports Briefs

DoDDS’s 39-point “mercy” overturned

The Department of Defense Dependent Schools has overturned its former rule that forbid DoDDS coaches from reporting the full and correct scores of games if the margin of victory was greater than 39 points!

Bamberg basketball clinic slated Oct. 24-27

Become a certified basketball official! Unit level games pay \$20 per game, community level games pay \$35.

To get (re)certified attend the officials clinic Oct. 24 - 27 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Freedom Fitness Facility. Advance sign up is requested.

Contact the FFF at CIV 0951-300-8890 for more information.

Bamberg CYS basketball registration open

Registration for CYS Sports and Fitness Basketball is open now through Nov. 2. The program is offered for children and youth ages 3 to 15 years old.

The season will run from Nov. to March. The fee is \$46 per child.

For more information, contact CYS Sports & Fitness at CIV 0951-300-7452 or sign up at CYS Central Registration at CIV 0951-300-8660.

Want to promote your sport? Call us today!

Just call DSN 475-7113 or e-mail adriane.foss@us.army.mil for coverage.

Apply now for Armed Forces Cycling Team

Applications are now being accepted for the 2008 U.S. Armed Forces Cycling Team.

The application deadline is Sept. 30. U.S. Armed Forces Cycling Team members will represent the U.S. Armed Forces in local, regional, national and international events throughout the 2008 season.

Each service branch has a different procedure for sports applications. All can be found online:

AIR FORCE: www.usafsports.com

ARMY: www.armymwr.com/portal/recreation/sportsandfitness/application/

The U.S. Armed Forces Cycling Team also requires a soigneur and a licensed bicycle mechanic.

For further information on required qualifications and position duties for these two positions contact Team Manager Debra Ponzio, debra.ponzio@sembach.af.mil.

Weekly Golf Scramble slated every Thursday

Join the weekly Thursday Night Scramble Golf Tournament at 5 p.m. at Bamberg’s Whispering Pines Golf Course.

Entry fee is only \$5 per person. Please register by 4:30 p.m.

Tournament starts at 5 p.m. Call DSN 469-8953 for more information.

Red, White, and Cheer! Junior Falcon Clinic

Join the cheerleaders for a night of cheer dance and fun Friday

Ages 4 – 13 can come learn cheers, chants and dances to shout out at the Varsity Football Pre-Game show Saturday as we pay tribute to our deployed Soldiers.

The clinic will be held at the Vilseck High School multi-purpose room and the pre-game show will be held at the stadium.

The cost is \$20. Pick-up registration at the high school or contact Daniele Massey at CIV 09662-701-566.